

## Labour tables censure motion against Government

The Shadow Cabinet tabled a censure motion on the Government last night, the first of the present Parliament. It expresses "no confidence" in the Conservatives' economic and industrial policies and reflects Labour's anger over what it sees as the Government's strict adherence to monetarist policies without regard to social consequences.

## Attack on 'disastrous' economic policies

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

To bring maximum pressure on the Government to change its "disastrous policies", the Labour Shadow Cabinet last night tabled a motion of censure which must have precedence in the parliament's annual business next week.

It states bluntly: "that this House has no confidence in the economic and industrial policies of her Majesty's Government". The attack will be led from the front bench by Mr James Callaghan and Mr Denis Healey, former Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It is the first censure motion of the present Parliament and reflects the anger of Labour MPs at the effects of the Government's strict adherence to monetarist policies without regard to social and economic consequences.

At last night's Shadow Cabinet meeting, Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey listed the effects of those policies which they fear, as an official Opposition, they must highlight so that the country could be made more aware of what was happening and what must happen in the future if the Government is not turned from its present course.

They spoke of industrial and economic chaos, the abnormally high interest rates, high mortgages and their effect on young families, catastrophic rises in prices, the high level of earnings, increasing unemployment

## BL workers in 10-1 vote against strike

From Clifford Webb  
Birmingham

On a bitterly cold, mist-shrouded playing field, 12,000 BL Longbridge workers yesterday voted by 10-1 against a strike to secure the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the communist shop stewards' leader who had urged them to disrupt the recovery plan formulated by Sir Michael Edwardes, BL chairman.

A delighted Sir Michael heard the news eight miles away in Birmingham, where he was about to address a meeting of 800 industrialists. He told them: "Uncertainty about the future of BL is one of our biggest problems. But there was no uncertainty this morning about our Longbridge employees' determination to stay at work."

"That news is going to spread like wild fire through the country and it will make a big difference to our 'Buy British' sales campaign."

Before the Longbridge workers' mass meeting a conference Mr Robinson had said he was happy to leave his future in the hands of his fellow workers. When a sea of hands ended his reign as the single most powerful shop steward in British industry he shook his head in disbelief.

As he climbed from the back of a lorry serving as the platform for speakers he blamed the media for conducting a sustained campaign against him.

Surrounded by a few dozen grim-faced supporters

who jostled reporters, he said: "Our members have made the wrong decision here today. They will live to regret it for the rest of their lives. In the fullness of time they might even seek to canonise me as a saint."

He said he had no plans to seek another job and there must now be considerable doubt about his ability to find employment. "I wasn't expecting that," he said. "I have not thought about what I should do in the event of a rejection."

However, he said he might seek election as a full-time union official, probably by contesting the Midland seat on the national executive at present held by Mr Ken Cure, a member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' three-man inquiry team which found that he had been wrongfully dismissed.

It was apparent from the time workers began to gather in the natural amphitheatre provided by Cofont Park playing fields, adjoining Longbridge, that the anti-Robinson feeling was not only widespread but unusually for men holding moderate views.

Several groups composed of 500 to 600 men carrying placards declaring "Out with Robbo" and "On your bike, Robbo" packed tightly together.

The first speaker, Mr Bert Benson, secretary of the UEW's Birmingham West district committee which recommended strike action, was subjected to incessant boozing. The same noisy disapproval greeted the other speakers: Mr John Barker, the Transport and General Workers' Union full-time official responsible for Longbridge, Mr William Jordan, Midland divisional organizer of the AUEW and Mr Jack Adams, chairman of the Longbridge shop stewards' committee.

All attempted to make the point that a vote against strike action would be a blow to the whole trade union movement.

Finally Mr Robinson moved to the microphone. He was greeted with a cluster of missiles which included large rubber washers and a few smaller metal ones. They were thrown high into the air and landed harmlessly around him.

As he began to speak a group of several hundred strong near the centre began to sing: "Go home, you b\*\*\*". Another group chanted: "Work, work, work".

When the voting was taken less than 1,000 of the estimated 12,000 to 14,000 present put their hands up for a strike. The counter-vote was estimated by most observers to be a majority of at least 10-1.

The unexpected size of the anti-strike vote came as a shock to both sides.

Trouble started at 6.30 am as



Pickets and police clash outside Sheerness Steel.

## Siege of Sheerness peters out and the plant carries on

From Nicholas Timmins  
Sheerness

The siege of Sheerness peters out yesterday with the town's steel plant still rolling and its work force evidently determined to work on.

About 1,300 pickets and 1,000 police descended on the Kent port, on the Isle of Sheppey, most of them before dawn on Saturday when saw 21 arrests with five pickets taken to hospital after a series of sporadic incidents.

No lorries attempted to enter the plant, although company employees said 2,000 men of steel were moved out overnight.

The feared clash between townsmen, steelworkers' wives and the pickets was averted when the wives' organisers agreed to please from the police and the steel company not to mount their counter-picket. Instead they marched through the town, their ranks swelling to almost 1,000, shopkeepers and passers-by applauding, and the few pickets in the streets at the time cheered.

Co-chairs of steelworkers from all over Britain, including 100 women, tracked down motorways by police, picketed the plant backed by 360 Kent miners. About 500 police were deployed at a time to control

police forced pickets back from the plant's access road, which was closed throughout the day. Two arrests were made and a couple of women pickets were knocked over and cut in the crush.

Later, eight local farmers bearing "right to work" placards clashed with the steelworkers, two receiving a bloodied nose and a cut head as their wooden placards hit them.

Serious trouble almost erupted as the col dand bored pickets set off round the back streets near the steel plant. A van carrying three men drove at speed through the column before being forced to stop by an oncoming vehicle. Pickets rocked the van and tried to drag out the driver, who was hurling abuse at them, before police arrived.

A can of some fruit and a placard were thrown at the police in the melee.

The worst incident occurred as pickets attempted to march into the town past a police cordon. Seven arrests were made and three people taken to hospital, including Mrs Penny Jackson, from Scunthorpe, who claimed police dragged her down. "They kicked my head and dragged me by the hair along the floor," she said.

A reporter on the scene said, however, that she knocked her head against a wall as she fell in the crush and police went to help her. "There was no

police force to mount later.

Our intention is still to shut the plant down by depriving it of its raw materials," he said; but there were no immediate plans for a further mass picket.

He said a round-the-clock picket would be mounted later.

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## HOME NEWS

## Some Labour moderates predict showdown in autumn with possibility of a final party split

By Michael Hartfield  
Political Reporter

Some moderate Labour politicians were predicting last night, after a joint meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and the party's national executive committee, that the party was heading for a showdown in the autumn with the distinct possibility of an irrevocable split.

At yesterday's meeting Mr James Callaghan, leader of the party, Mr Michael Foot, deputy leader, and Mr Denis Healey, shadow Treasury spokesman lined up against Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Eric Heffer, leading members of the left-dominated national executive, over control of the party's general election manifesto.

While the meeting was described as amicable, the undoubtedly disagreements brought to the fore the internal struggle over the decision-making centre of power when the party comes to drawing up its manifesto.

When Mrs Shirley Williams, a former Cabinet minister, pointed out these differences and said give-and-take on both sides was essential, Mr Heffer was reported as saying: "Abso-

lutely not."

Behind the argument lies a proposal by Mr Benn and Mr Heffer, their paper was before the meeting, that the party conference should approve a rolling manifesto each year.

Mr Golding, a central-right member of the national executive, said the leader of the party would be in an impossible position. "When a change from what was described at the meeting as a 'programme of aspirations' to a manifesto is drawn from a manifesto is drawn.

At last year's party conference Mr Callaghan lost the battle over control of the manifesto, which is now vested in the national executive, and the so-called "Benn-Heffer" proposal, yet to be approved, is the decision stage from the next.

The big question, he said, would be whether the leader was going to resign, and that would be asked during an election campaign.

Mr Foot counselled against a rolling manifesto by saying that the annual conference would not be in a position to list priorities. That would come when the general election was announced.

Mr Healey, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the availability of resources was also fundamental. Conference delegates, if they drew up the manifesto, would not be in a position to know what they were.

## Police chiefs happy with picket law

By Ian Bradley

The police are happy with the existing law as it affects picketing and do not want any extra powers, a group of chief constables told Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary.

The meeting with Mr Whitelaw, which was attended by five senior chief constables, was held at the request of Mr Alan Goodson, Chief Constable of Leicestershire and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Mr Goodson said: "At a time when Mr Whitelaw is getting advice about this aspect of law and order from MCPS newspapers and other groups, we felt it was important that he should also get the views of the police."

After the meeting, Mr Goodson said that there had been no discussion of giving increased powers to the police to deal with difficulties arising from picketing.

He said: "As far as the criminal law is concerned, chief constables feel that we have adequate powers on the whole. We do not want greater power."

The chief constables had indicated to Mr Whitelaw that they were not always able to fulfil the two distinct responsibilities

placed on them in an industrial dispute.

Mr Goodson said: "We have to make sure that those who want to go to work can do so, and we also have to enforce the law. These are distinct and separate things."

The law says that pickets can be present in sufficient numbers to persuade people peacefully. When the number of pickets grows so large that they become intimidating, that is illegal.

The commanding police officer at the scene has to make a judgment as to when a picket ceases to be peaceful and becomes intimidating."

He ruled out as impractical any new legislation laying down a precise limit on the number of people who can constitute a peaceful picket.

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## HOME NEWS

## Ministerial impatience at delays in planning

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

In an effort to speed planning procedures, the Department of the Environment is to publish regular details of the number of appeals it receives and the time it takes to deal with them.

The department will also ask local authorities to follow its example and provide similar information on planning applications.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, emphasized his impatience with the long delays that have become an abiding feature of the system. The rapid release of publicly owned land to the private sector was particularly important for inner urban area regeneration, he said.

A register of all land owned nationalized industries, as proposed in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, was a vital step in the process. Already a special survey conducted by the department and Liverpool City Council had identified more than 1,000 acres of unused and derelict land, which was being studied site by site.

"At the end of our examination, we will know more about the problems of coping with urban decay than anyone has ever known before," he stated. "That is because, for the first time, we will have details of who owns the land, why it is derelict, and so on."

Mr Heseltine also made it clear that, in his view, money provided by the Government for urban renewal had been spread too thinly over too many projects. He wanted to see it concentrated on specific schemes, which would vary considerably from one place to another.

"But it is important to recognize that there is only a limited role for the Government," he added.

He also affected surprise at the angry response from local authorities to his plans to limit their expenditure, and suggested that the answer lay largely in reducing staffs. His department employed 6 per cent fewer people than when he came to office nine months ago, yet all he was asking local authorities to do was to make a 2½ per cent cut over two years.

## Teacher turnover is blamed on house prices

By Our Education Correspondent

High housing costs are believed to be in part responsible for a rise in the turnover of teachers in the Greater London area, disclosed in a report published yesterday.

The report contains the results of the sixth annual survey of teacher turnover in London, carried out by the Greater London committee of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

In Merton and Richmond, as many as one in four secondary school teachers resigned or retired from their posts last year. Merton's turnover rate for primary and secondary schools rose from 14 to 21 per cent.

Mr Richard Davies, acting director of education for Merton, said many young teachers could not afford to buy a house or flat within the borough.

## Local authorities offer plans to Mr Heseltine to avoid proposed block-grant system

By Christopher Warnham  
Local Government Correspondent

Plans for financing local government, designed to avoid the introduction of the Government's proposed new block grant system, were yesterday handed to Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, by the local authority associations.

The associations were responding to Mr Heseltine's challenge that if they could come up with an alternative which satisfied the Government's objectives of overall control he would consider it seriously.

Their solution, retaining the needs and resources elements of the grant, which would disperse the Government's proposals, meets Mr Heseltine's objectives "in a way which his own proposals cannot," the associations state.

They are convinced that their grant and accountability proposals "can operate within the established constitutional relationships between the electorate, local government, and Parliament. Since the Bill is now in its standing committee stages, this is short if they are to force changes in it."

mentally alter those relationships in a manner which can only be detrimental to local and central government, and to public administration in general".

The plans have been prepared jointly by the Association of County Councils, Association of District Councils, Association of Metropolitan Councils, London Boroughs' Association and the Greater London Council.

They argue that the block grant system would encourage overspending and be too complicated.

Accordingly, the associations envisage a new system of assessing the needs of a council, taking account of its population and the groups within it.

They have now worked out in detail the new system, but criticize the Government's proposal for a standard expenditure worked out centrally.

"There is no way in which any centrally operated, formula-based needs assessment could ever be good enough to enable the Government to use it to specify what individual authorities ought to be spending", they say.



The Queen with two residents after opening the Hope Town Salvation Army hostel for women at Whitechapel, east London, yesterday.

## Face lift and all mod con for top end of Britain

From Ronald Faux  
John o' Groats

John o' Groats, incorrectly famous as the most northerly point of the British mainland, is to have a government-sponsored face lift.

The remote village attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and has little to offer except a sense of having arrived.

There are no proper car-parking facilities, no recreational guides, and one public lavatory in a wooden shed which is locked in winter.

The Countryside Commission for Scotland has approved grants towards the cost of acquiring land for a visitors' centre and developing a public car park and other facilities for tourists.

The improvements, announced yesterday, will be carried out by the Highland Regional Council at a cost of more than £66,000.

Local and central government authorities have for years tried to resolve what they call the "visitor reception and environmental problems" at John o' Groats which, by a thin slice of latitude, yields to Dunnett Head, a few miles to the west, as the most northerly point of the British mainland.

Mr Duncan Macleod, proprietor of the John o' Groats Hotel, said it was difficult to get the balance right between having an unspoilt village and a commercially developed tourist centre.

The review says a preferential scheme is still needed so long as economic circumstances rule out a comprehensive disability benefit scheme at industrial injury levels for all disabled people.

Many of the suggestions involve one group of the industrially injured gaining at the expense of others. For example, it is argued that the £15m cost of the "preference" under industrial injury benefit paid for up to 26 weeks at £2.75 more than the sickness rate, could be saved. That money could be used to bring forward, from the present 26 weeks, the date on which disablement benefit becomes payable.

The £2.75-a-week differential scheme has remained unchanged since 1966, and its value has fallen from 73 per cent above the sickness benefit level in 1948 to 15 per cent.

The review suggests that the allowance could end at retirement age, compensate only for half of lost earnings up to £30.40 a week, and be withdrawn where invalidity benefit is also being paid. The combined savings would total at least £50m a year, of which £4.5m could be spent on raising the maximum allowance.

Mr Macleod, reflecting on the cluster of coaches outside his hotel and people with desperate expressions seeking to use his lavatory, welcomed the resolution of the John o' Groats "visitor reception and environmental problem".

## Industrial injuries aid reviewed

By Pat Realy  
Social Services Correspondent

The first review of the industrial injuries scheme since its introduction in 1948 was launched yesterday in a consultative document published by the Department of Health and Social Security. Ministers denied that the review foreshadowed any intention of abolishing the scheme, but said any changes must not involve extra cost.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Association of Principals of Colleges, in London yesterday, Dr Rhodes Boyson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the interim measures recently introduced by the Government to rationalize higher education courses in the public sector was not at present a prelude to a rationalization of institutions. No secret master plan on college closures existed.

The Government hoped that the findings of a new ad hoc departmental committee on the unit costs of courses in different subjects would provide a basis on which to take more sophisticated decisions about the future financing and planning of higher education than had been possible in the short term.

"Society owes a special debt to people injured at work or to the widows of those killed at work," Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Social Security, said. The review, ordered by the previous Labour Government in the wake of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury, has been compiled by officials and does represent government policy.

The basic question posed is whether a preferential scheme is still justified in view of improved sickness and invalidity benefits since the mid-1960s. But Mr Prentice admitted that the review might conflict with government proposals to make

employers responsible for sickness benefit during the first eight weeks.

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The review questions the existence of six different rates of benefit altogether, the review suggests it could either be increased, at a cost of £24m if its 70-per-cent lead were re-established, or maintained as now.

Disability benefit is not regarded as needing much change. The review points out that a pensioner assessed as 100 per cent disabled can, under the industrial injuries scheme, draw £66.20 a week tax free, compared to £28.20 for someone with no disablement pension.

The review suggests that changes are needed in the scheme that can be paid on the date of disablement pension. The special hardship allowance paid to people with less than 100 per cent disability to compensate for loss of earnings capacity contains many anomalies.

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**COUNTRY LIFE**  
WILDLIFE NUMBER

**NATURE IN FOCUS**  
David Tomlinson examines the changing approach to wildlife photography, and the impact of modern cameras and techniques in this challenging field.

**GORILLAS AT HOME**  
John Sparks writes about the most impressive of the great apes, the mountain gorilla, and the threats to its survival in the highlands of Central Africa.

**HARBINGERS OF THE CHANGING YEAR**  
L. Hugh Newman discusses the behaviour of butterflies in spring, ranging from the first to emerge, the brimstone, to the localised Duke of Burgundy fritillary.

**BADGER WATCH**  
Jonathan S. Lloyd records his observations of a Midlands' badger family, and tells how the badgers he and his wife were watching came to accept their presence.

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## Funeral workers reinstated

Mr Mervyn Littlejohn and Mr Paul Barnard, two funeral workers who were dismissed after their hearse, containing a body, had parked on a single yellow line outside a funeral parlour in Holloway, North London, was towed away by the police, have been reinstated by their employers, the London Co-operative Society.

The police have apologized for the incident, which delayed the funeral of a woman aged 82 for almost two hours.

**Film wins award**  
The British Film Institute Award for the most original and imaginative film at the National Film Theatre in 1979 has been won by *Sirri* (The Herd), produced and written by Vilim Güney, from Turkey.





## HOME NEWS

## Border security deal will be continued, Mr Haughey tells Dail

From Our Correspondent

Dublin  
Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, told the Dail in Dublin yesterday that the secret security arrangements agreed between Mrs Thatcher and his predecessor, Mr. Jack Lynch, after the murder of Lord Mountbatten last August, would not be changed.

Questioned about his speech to the Fianna Fail annual conference on Saturday, Mr. Haughey said that no plans had been made for the two governments in Dublin and London to hold talks on Northern Ireland.

He expected, however, to meet Mrs Thatcher in Brussels at an EEC summit next month and expected there would shortly be a meeting in London.

**Peace People man is given back his job**

From Anna Ferriman

Belfast  
Differences within the Peace People, the movement that sprang into being in 1976 after the deaths of three children on a Belfast street, became more apparent yesterday with the statement that the Peace People Company is to retain the services of Mr Peter McLachlan, the movement's projects officer.

The Peace People's 12-man executive dismissed Mr McLachlan as its chairman and projects manager 10 days ago and later issued a statement that it did not have the money to pay his £8,000-a-year salary.

But the Peace People Company, which was set up in 1977 with responsibility for a large part of the movement's finance, said yesterday that as it was responsible for appointing and paying Mr McLachlan it would decide his future.

between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey told the Dail that a copy of his speech had been sent to Mrs Thatcher. His government would also continue its international pressure in support of talks by sending the text of the speech to its embassies and instructing Irish representatives to promote Irish government policy.

Although he repeated that the first priority of his Government was to deal with the question of Northern Ireland, Mr Haughey did not dispel any hawkish sentiments yesterday despite Opposition attempts to persuade him into calling for British withdrawal from the north.



Mr Fox leaving a multi-terrain vehicle during his inspection tour of the Isle of Wight.

## Aeolian Sky cleared over 13 lethal canisters

From Frances Gibb

Yarmouth, Isle of Wight

The company's nine directors, of whom three are members of the Peace People's executive, said that there were genuine difficulties of judgment as to where the executive's authority ended and where the company's began. The company intended to meet and discuss the matter with the executive as soon as possible.

Prayer for peace: Cardinal Tomas O Flaitch, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will preach at a service of prayer for peace in Northern Ireland at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday, March 15 (The Press Association reports). It will be his first public engagement in England.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will lead the service, which will be attended by church leaders of other denominations.

assess the danger of the sunken ship's cargo.

Thirteen canisters of lethal arsenic trichloride washed ashore on south-coast beaches did not come from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky, it was confirmed yesterday.

At the time the 16,000-ton ship sank 12 miles east of Portland Bill on November 4, the canisters were on the shelf of a German company, Merck of Barnstorf, and did not leave there until November 28, Judge

At a meeting of more than

30 officials from Hampshire and Dorset County Councils, and from every maritime local authority from the Devon border to the Sussex border.

Major A. J. Parker, chief fisheries officer of the Southern Sea Fisheries District, said that the island was the breeding

ground for the whole of Europe's oysters. The industry

could not afford to be killed by pointless rumours.

Since the Aeolian Sky sank, 1,066 canisters have been swept ashore, including the arsenic trichloride, 120 aerosols of foot-rot spray, 210 of disinfectants, 21 of linseed oil and various other chemicals, the bulk of which were made by ICI and loaded on to the ship at Hull.

The ship is also known to have been carrying some noxious chemicals such as nitric and sulphuric acid and arsenic trioxide. So far the daily operation of clearing the canisters from the island's beaches has cost an estimated £25,000 or £30,000 a week.

Six teachers have volunteered to leave their schools and work 13 hours a day for £5 an hour identifying chemicals from the canisters in their school laboratories. Wearing safety suits as protection against splashes, they have joined teams of firemen wearing ar-

ight suits to collect the canisters from the shores with the aid of a £3,500 "Argocat" multi-terrain vehicle.

In spite of the local cost, Mr Fox said yesterday there would be no government money to help the island. "The Government is not a soft touch. We cannot just push out money regardless. But I did not realize they were relying on schoolmasters. They ought to have some help. We do not want the exam results to suffer."

The Government might send some scientific advice to the teachers, he said. "But from the figures I have heard there is no way in which you can expect the Government to provide extra cost." There had to be a big hazard before government money would be granted and there was no way those figures could justify help, he said.

## WEST EUROPE

## France trumpets solar plan but whispers about nuclear projects

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 20

Scarcely a day goes by without France announcing yet another move towards ending its dependence on oil energy. Yesterday came the optimistic report of the two-year-old State Energy Commission; today the controversial authorization has been given to start two nuclear reactors at Gravelines in the north and Tricastin in the Drôme.

The solar energy report was presented by a suitably beaming M. Henry Durand, the commission president, who announced proudly that France was the second world power when it came to sun power and that it intended to stay the way.

Between now and the end of the century the solar energy industry in France is supposed to create 80,000 jobs and to produce enough power to end the need for 15 million tonnes of imported oil. In that time the plan is that one French home in four will be solar heated, while in 1980 the commission's Frs 400m (24m) budget will enable army barracks to start being sun-heated and the number of solar water heaters in the country to double to 40,000.

The decision to press ahead with the two nuclear reactors was not announced at a joyful press conference, but a short note from M. André Girard, the Minister of Industry, while the French Government is proud of its nuclear programme, strong environmental lobbies force it to be rather quiet in talking about the subject.

This is particularly the case

with the two reactors now being charged because both developed cracks in the course of construction which caused serious concern to be expressed by the environmentalists as well as provoking union action against the projects. Equipment to monitor the cracks has been installed beneath the cladding.

Though France is well positioned to benefit from solar power in the south of the country, the northern areas cannot do so and the chief substitute for oil-produced energy in Government planning is nuclear. President Giscard d'Estaing said last month that by 1995 more than half of France's electricity would be nuclear generated.

At the same time the Government realized that nuclear power is generally unpopular, which is why consumers living in the vicinity of these power stations are to get a 15 per cent reduction in their bills.

Some ecologist groups argue that this proves the Government knows that its nuclear stations are dangerous. Support for this idea might seem to come from a circular soon to be sent to the neighbours of the nuclear station at Fessenheim in Haut Rhin, telling them what to do in the event of a leak.

This says that if the leak is minor one person should stay home and keep in their animals until the all-clear is given. If the leak is more serious people are to get a plastic bag for each member of the family and fit it with their necessary clothes and papers. Buses will then take the air to decontamination centre and then on to a holiday camp.

## Strasbourg police officers charged with assault

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 20

A police superintendent six inspectors and a customs officer in Strasbourg have been charged with beating four prisoners being held for drug offences last October.

The charges are the result of an inquiry by Mme Jacqueline Boulançay, an examining magistrate brought in from Nancy.

The four prisoners, all North Africans, had been arrested in a Strasbourg cafe following a tip-off to police. Interrogated separately during the night they were finally charged with trafficking in hashish, and 55 kilograms of hashish, worth 50,000 francs (about £5,500) on the black market, are said to have been found in their possession.

Two weeks later three of the men lodged a complaint through their lawyers alleging that they had been beaten with rulers and truncheons after being tied naked to the central Windesheim nuclear plant (Our Whitehaven). Correspondent writes.

They put forward the conclusion that only two of the sources, Wa Water or Ennerdale Water, could provide the quantity of water needed.

Giving evidence on the twenty-second day of the "two lakes" inquiry in Whitehaven, Mr Thomas Boddington, a BNF consulting engineer, said they had considered taking water supplies from a variety of sources.

Apart from Ennerdale and Wa Water they had considered the rivers Derwent, Calder and Blea, the sea and ground water. But after examining the hydrology and engineering features of the sources they had concluded that most of the other choices were unacceptable and did not have any big advantages over Ennerdale or Wa Water.

The inquiry continues.

heating pipes. One of the three alleged a truncheon had been pushed up his anus.

A medical examination which had been made two days after their arrest showed up marks of a beating on their bodies, although a further inspection made after the complaint was lodged revealed nothing.

The complainants, who had now been released, also allege that a police doctor ignored their injuries after their arrest and signed a certificate saying they were in a fit state to remain in prison.

The affair has further soured relations between the police and public in Strasbourg, where organizations in the past have made a number of allegations against the city's force.

Two officials of the European Parliament have now written to Mme Simone Veil, President of the Parliament, asking to be reassured about police behaviour in the city.

## Islam meets its match in Rome

### Strike halts mosque

From Peter Nichols

Rome, February 20

The Islamic revival has met its match so far as Italy is concerned with a strike of indefinite length which has effectively stopped the authorization for a start to building Rome's first mosque.

The strike concerns the judges of the regional courts, which hear cases of challenged building licences.

The project is already an old one. It was first spoken of in 1948. Six years ago it looked for success after the visit here of the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, who managed to gather support from the government of the time. The idea is to build an Islamic centre to include a mosque on Monte Antenne east of the city along the Via Salaria.

A committee of ambassadors of Islamic countries, with Saudi Arabia as the main financial contributor, is handling the project. Their position is not enviable. The estimate made five years ago for a sum of about \$10m is now more like \$25m.

In the meantime, a group of citizens living near Monte Antenne asked the regional administrative court to withhold the licence, which was based on the grounds that the site was ill-chosen. This has also been the view of the Italia Nostra movement which protects the country's artistic and natural patrimony.

They have tried to persuade the Muslim ambassadors to take their project elsewhere and received the answer that any alternative site would have to be nearer, not farther, from the centre of the city.

The action brought by local inhabitants was due to be heard by the court today. The strike means it must be postponed and, to judge by the court's programme, there is no place for a hearing before late spring. In nine days the building licence expires.

The Saudi Arabian Embassy states that there has already been a demonstration by the Italian workers ready to build the mosque against the legal proceedings. According to the embassy, proceedings were instituted by a group of fanatics - some of the names of the signatories are not Italian but "Polician and Balkan."

It is pointed out that mosques and centres of Islamic culture prosper in other European countries while Christian churches and synagogues exist harmoniously in the Muslim world. There are some 25,000 Moslems in Rome alone.

The project may not come to a complete halt, however. There is some feeling among the Muslim embassies that diplomatic immunity might be used at least to make a start on construction

## Wolverhampton theatre closing after 86 years

From Our Correspondent

Wolverhampton

The British Film Institute is receiving a grant of £125,000 from the independent television company this year, more than double the amount from the companies for 1978-79.

Previously the grants from the companies have been used for the preservation of independent television programmes in the National Film Archive, but the increase will provide extra funds for the film institute's production board, enabling it to facilitate the development of innovative and experimental programming for television.

Other money from the grant will be used to expand the institute's television information services.

## £125,000 ITV grant to film institute

By a Staff Reporter

The British Film Institute is receiving a grant of £125,000 from the independent television company this year, more than double the amount from the companies for 1978-79.

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Other money from the grant will be used to expand the institute's television information services.

## Parachute club examiner's rating is suspended

From Our Correspondent

Colchester

The head of a sky-diving club at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, has had his examiner's rating suspended after his first jump.

Mr Pat Slattery, aged 41, the chief instructor, blamed "a run of bad luck" for the three accidents which happened since the club moved to Clacton air-strip from Ipswich, Suffolk, two months ago.

He said the centre had acquired new jackets and a rescue boat since Mr Broad died.

"The suspension of my examiner's rating simply means that I will not be able to examine instructors for a while. It does not prevent me teaching new pupils, and it will not affect the running of the club," he said.

centre. A member, aged 26, crashed through a garden shed and a Dutchman, aged 28, hit a moving car and broke his leg on his first jump.

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These kidnappings were carried out between June, 1979, and August, 1980, and include the seizure of the Schild family from London on August 21 of last year.

Apart from the arrests, several hundred searches have been carried out and records of interrogations now fill thousands of pages.

The arrests are said to have been based on the confessions of six people accused in the Castello family kidnapping, which took place the day after the disappearance of the Schild family in Sardinia.

The list of arrests is being taken as an indication of Sardinia's new type of kidnapping. It was clear that an organization as efficient as this was a long way from the traditional type of Sardinian bandit.

They are seen to have adopted methods typical of an industrial society, rather than the old rural background of banditry, in their choice of victims and the re-cycling of marked ransom money.

Most of those charged with or suspected of having had a hand in these kidnappings are said to have regular work. They include businessmen, accountants, skilled workers, mechanics employed by a public service, private security men, employees of transport businesses and farmers.

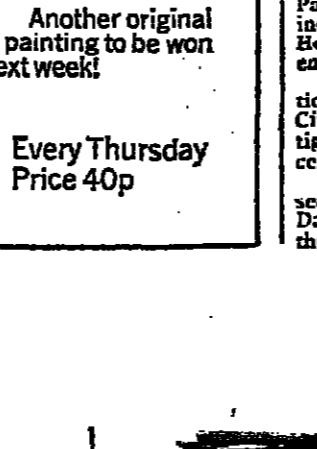
The farmers belong to the rural world but those under suspicion graze their own hords and cannot be regarded as poor.

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## WEST EUROPE

Compromise with doctors sought  
French health system threatened by costs

Charles Hargrove, is, Feb 20  
rance has for the past 30 years prided itself on the fact that whereas Britain suffered a "socialized medicine", France succeeded in working a system of médecine à la française, which achieved a compromise between the rôle of all Frenchmen to health, and the liberal exercise of their profession by physicians. This delicate balance is threatened by soaring health costs. They are estimated to rise at a rate of 20 per cent a year; and the cumulative cost of the health service is at 25,000m francs (£2.75m), despite of substantial increases contributions last year.

The Government is determined to cut it down, and to limit the increase in health costs to that of the gross domestic product, which, between 1975 and 1978, has risen an average 13.9 per cent.

Discussions in progress since beginning of this month between the Confederation of Medical Associations and the doctors of the different health services have produced pro-

jects which their critics say, amount to a complete dismantling of the whole edifice of "social medicine" and the creation of a new system of care, one for rich and one for the poor.

The final decisions are to be taken in a few days. But if no formal agreement can be reached, the Government, it is reported, might decide to stick to a system of individual contracts between doctors and the national health service. This would in fact turn doctors involved into salaried employees after the British model. Hence the outcry against "socialized medicine" by the bulk of the medical profession in France.

With the managers of the different health funds and the doctors agree that the increase in health costs must be contained. The question is how to achieve this.

There are too many doctors in France, and the situation in respect is worsening. In some country districts, there is a shortage of

doctors. The population is ageing, the number of contributors is correspondingly falling, and in the past few years have become acutely short of money, and often go to doctor on the slightest pre-

reduces costs, the Government had already last July given the five-year national agreement, which expires this year, for a revaluation of fees in October and in May, and called upon both

parties to work out a concerted strategy of expenditure.

The national health fund managers who in the negotiations follow government instructions, want to achieve two objectives. The first is to introduce stiffer controls on the nature and the extent of prescriptions, by penalizing doctors who over-subscribe or give elaborate treatments for uncomplicated complaints. The other is to limit the increase in fees.

To find away out, and the difficulty of cutting contributions cutting down on the scope of the health service, the fund managers have proposed setting up a three-tier system. The first would include doctors who subscribe to the national agreement between the national health service and the profession, and would charge official fees, for which the persons insured would be fully reimbursed.

The second tier would comprise "approved" physicians, with special qualifications or experience, who subscribe to the national agreement but would be free to determine their fees, and whose patients would be reimbursed at the official rate.

Finally doctors bound by no agreement would charge what they liked, but their patients would be refunded only at the arbitrary rate of, at present, 4,000 francs a consultation.

In fact, there is already a three-tier classification of practitioners, because about a quarter are authorized to charge more than the basic fee of 40 francs a consultation, while only 15 per cent of them have refused to endorse the national agreement which came into force in 1971.

The difference between the new system and the present one is that access to the second category would be free, and not as now decided by a joint commission of doctors and health fund managers; and that the proportion of the fee reimbursed would apparently be frozen.

The medical profession is divided on the issue. The fear of the more progressive-minded doctors who believe in "social medicine", but not in "socialized medicine", is that the number of those in the second category would rise sharply, particularly if the controls and restrictions on the first category were tightened up considerably.

General practitioners with a large and wealthy practice would join the specialists. And in the first category as the Socialist newspaper *Le Matin* points out, would be left only those with poorer patients or young doctors.

It would certainly cut national health costs but at the detriment of free access to medical care for all.

Mr Andreassen's speech, however, two key Cabinet members voted against a compromise figure proposed by the Minister. Mr Wim van der Putten, the Social Affairs Minister, voted against because he believed Mr van Agt's figure of 3,000m guilders (about £1m) in spending cuts was high. Mr Andreassen, on the other hand, felt it was too low, that none should be cut.

Both ministers are Christian Democrats and though the six Cabinet members voted in favour of Mr van Agt's compromise they are known to Mr Andreassen's tougher.

There is a distinct likelihood that they may follow Mr Andreassen's example, thereby bringing down the Cabinet.

Koos Rietveld, the parliamentary leader of the Liberals, tonight that the Finance Minister "was not just any-

thing but a Cabinet crisis could not be excluded.

In the view of the Socialist opposition Mr Andreassen's resignation must lead to the resignation of the whole Cabinet and to new elections. Mr Ed van Thijn, the deputy leader of the Labour Party's parliamentary group, said that the cabinet which has lost its finance minister has lost its heart.

Mr Andreassen believed that spending cuts of at least 4,000m guilders were essential in the present bleak economic situation after the latest increase in oil prices. It is said that in this he has the support of Dr Jelle Zijlstra, the respected president of the Bank of The Netherlands, though Dr Zijlstra has denied rumours that he would follow Mr Andreassen's example and resign as head of the country's central bank.

Mr Albeda, on the other hand, wanted to go only half as far as Mr Andreassen and also insisted that the incomes in real terms of the lowest paid should not be affected. He felt that any additional measures would make further cooperation with the trade unions on wages impossible.

The unions, already furious over a wages freeze until March 10 that the Cabinet wanted to extend if necessary by a month, have been organizing disruptive actions in Rotterdam and Amsterdam to protest against the Government's plans for further cuts in public spending.

If the Cabinet fails, one consequence will be that the formal abdication of Queen Juliana and the inauguration of Crown Princess Beatrix as the new queen on April 30 will take place under a caretaker government.

## Dutch Cabinet emergency over minister's resignation

Robert Schull, Rotterdam, Feb 20

The Dutch Cabinet met in an emergency session tonight after an announcement that Mr Andreassen, the Finance Minister, had resigned.

The announcement came after Mr Andreassen, the Prime Minister, to comment after two days of pur and speculation about future of the coalition between Christian Democrats and Conservative Liberals.

Monday night the Cabinet had agreed to discuss that had several weeks to reach a decision by consensus on the sum by which public spending should be reduced beyond 10,000m guilders (£2.25m) agreed two years ago.

After discussions that had been held, the unusual step of voting by voice, however, two key Cabinet members voted against a compromise figure proposed by the Minister. Mr Wim van der Putten, the Social Affairs Minister, voted against because he believed Mr van Agt's figure of 3,000m guilders (about £1m) in spending cuts was high. Mr Andreassen, on the other hand, felt it was too low, that none should be cut.

Both ministers are Christian Democrats and though the six Cabinet members voted in favour of Mr van Agt's compromise they are known to Mr Andreassen's tougher.

There is a distinct likelihood that they may follow Mr Andreassen's example, thereby bringing down the Cabinet.

Koos Rietveld, the parliamentary leader of the Liberals, tonight that the Finance Minister "was not just any-

thing but a Cabinet crisis could not be excluded.

In the view of the Socialist opposition Mr Andreassen's resignation must lead to the resignation of the whole Cabinet and to new elections. Mr Ed van Thijn, the deputy leader of the Labour Party's parliamentary group, said that the cabinet which has lost its finance minister has lost its heart.

Mr Andreassen believed that spending cuts of at least 4,000m guilders were essential in the present bleak economic situation after the latest increase in oil prices. It is said that in this he has the support of Dr Jelle Zijlstra, the respected president of the Bank of The Netherlands, though Dr Zijlstra has denied rumours that he would follow Mr Andreassen's example and resign as head of the country's central bank.

Mr Albeda, on the other hand, wanted to go only half as far as Mr Andreassen and also insisted that the incomes in real terms of the lowest paid should not be affected. He felt that any additional measures would make further cooperation with the trade unions on wages impossible.

The unions, already furious over a wages freeze until March 10 that the Cabinet wanted to extend if necessary by a month, have been organizing disruptive actions in Rotterdam and Amsterdam to protest against the Government's plans for further cuts in public spending.

If the Cabinet fails, one consequence will be that the formal abdication of Queen Juliana and the inauguration of Crown Princess Beatrix as the new queen on April 30 will take place under a caretaker government.

## French cash in on newly monetized coins

Our Own Correspondent, Feb 20  
In shops near the Paris Bourse were crowded today as hundreds of people tried to cash in yesterday's Government move to demonetize all five, and 50 franc coins containing silver. Prices of anything up to seven times the face value were realized for coins that had been legal tender the night before.

Such all such transactions subject to strict laws which sales to only 50 coins, and are in any event subject to 6 per cent tax, black market sales on the pavement outside the shops were also brisk, coins changing hands at more than 10 times their face value.

Coin which are legal tender can be melted down only by the authorities and only when a coin has been declared to be no longer legal tender can they be kept by collectors in any amount.

The three coins in recent years have only been minted in cupro-nickel, although tens of thousands of the older ones are still in circulation.

Government's decision to draw the coins is due to the rise in the value of silver which means that the 10 francs in the five franc

## OVERSEAS

## Pretoria hawks plan for contingency of Rhodesia intervention

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, Feb 20

Military hawks in South Africa are suggesting that the Army will intervene in Rhodesia if a civil war breaks out after the election. Meanwhile, Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, is apparently trying to calm the situation.

English-language newspapers today carried prominent reports that South African troops would be sent into Rhodesia if the Government believed it was warranted.

If chaos followed the election

and there was an "uncontrolled refugee situation", South Africa would militarily, informed sources said, be duty-bound to intervene militarily. Informed sources were quoted as saying in Pretoria.

The warning was seen as

South Africa's toughest state-

ment so far to Mozambique's

Frelimo regime since it came

to power in 1975, and with

which the South African

Government has elected for a

"live and let live" relationship.

Savimbi, leader of the anti-

government Unita resistance

movement in Angola, left Lon-

don yesterday after a five-day

private visit during which he

met business supporters and

Conservative politicians (our

Political Editor writes).

Meanwhile, Mr Botha has

denied that any South African

troops are still in Rhodesia.

They were officially withdrawn

from the Beit Bridge border

area in January.

South Africa has repeatedly

stated that it would abide by a

political settlement in Rhodesia

that led to legally elected

government.

There is no doubt that South

Africa has the military muscle

to intervene but whether the

South African public would

stand for the casualties such

as a campaign would involve

is another issue. And Mr Botha,

in 1975 sent South African

troops into Angola, has much

on his hands, including

the 15,000-strong

Angola People's

Army (Apda).

Increasing incursions over the

Mozambique border by guer-

illas of the African National

Congress are adding to the

pressure on Mr Botha to take

action over Rhodesia.

The security police today

announced the capture of two

guerillas who, they said, had

slipped into South Africa to

sabotage a strategic target.

They were captured near

Durban, a main port.

Dr Savimbi would not be

drawn on whom he had met, or

on the details of the support

that he had been seeking.

At a private reception Dr

Savimbi attended before leaving

it was clear that he was

supported by about a dozen Con-

gress MPs, including Mr

Edmund du Cann, chairman of

the 1922 Committee of Conser-

ative backbenchers.

Dr Savimbi made a stirring

speech in which he said that he

was fighting not for power but

for principles. "If the Cubans and

Russians are not stopped in

Africa the dangers to

southern Africa are very great."

With elections now only a

week away, Sir Ian Gilmore,

the Lord Privy Seal, and Gov-

ernment spokesman on foreign

affairs in the Commons, told

the House that political intimida-

tion was making it extremely

difficult for most parties to

campaign in certain areas. Lord

Soames, the Governor, was con-

tinuing his consultations with

party leaders, aimed at stem-

ming these activities.

## OVERSEAS

## Moscow gets another chance from Bonn over Games boycott

from Patricia Clough

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said today that his Government was holding back on a formal decision about boycotting the Moscow Olympics in order to give the Soviet Union another chance over Afghanistan.

It so happened that President Carter's deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan expired today as Mr Cyrus Vance, US Secretary of State, was in Bonn for the second round of talks in two months on the Afghanistan situation.

But not even Mr Vance's presence induced the West Germans to follow the American example and declare a boycott, even though leading West German politicians have clearly said it would be inconceivable for their sportmen to compete in the absence of the Americans.

Questioned during a talk with the foreign press, the Chancellor indicated that there was still plenty of time for a decision since the deadline for entries to the Games expired some time in May.

Pressed to explain why he wanted to take more time, he replied somewhat wistfully: "We would like to give some people in the world another chance to create the conditions which would make participation possible."

The Chancellor did not hide his displeasure that President Carter had announced his ultimatum about the Olympic Games without previously consulting him and other European allies.

He said he had heard about the ultimatum on the day it was announced. That was "a little late". But he had no complaints about transatlantic consultation in general.

Mr Vance said at a joint press conference with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, that the United States was willing to improve its methods of consultation with its allies and this subject had been discussed in Bonn.

"It is critical that in situations like this we have both the mechanism and means for full discussion at all times," he said.

The press conference, held after hours of talks last night and today between the two, and more than two hours of consultations with the Chancellor, produced no indication of any change in the positions of the two key Nato allies.

## Britain's Olympic stance defended

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's first pre-Olympic medal was one easily enough yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, holding the official line stance.

While a number of MPs at the Select Committee hearing tried to joose Mr Hurd out of his stride, claiming that the result the sporting authorities, or was applying double standards Government had failed to compete with South African rugby, Mr Hurd went jogging imperturbably onward.

Whether the British Olympic Association will endorse the Government's advise, that British athletes would do better to stay away from Moscow is another matter. Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour member for Hull, claimed that British athletes were being put under "fantastic pressure".

Mr Hurd said that all that had happened was that the Prime Minister had written a letter, "there are no thumbscrews out" he said.

Earlier Mr Nigel Spearing Labour Member for Newham South, had demanded to know if the Minister was aware that the Government's comments about the games would be seen as "offensive and untrue".

Looking somewhat surprised at this show of vehemence, Mr Hurd replied that it could only be thought so by people who did not understand the Soviet system.

He made the point that athletes who chose in go to Moscow would be "involved" actors in a play which, from the Soviet point of view, was being staged for its own propaganda. This would have been so, he admitted, even if the invasion of Afghanistan had not taken place. But that event, for the Government, had "tipped the balance".

Mr Anthony Grant, Conservative Member for Harrow Central, hoped that British athletes would at least have the grace to stay away from the ceremonial parade.

There was a film of the 1936 games, Mr Grant went on, recalling the incident with some relish showing the French contingent giving the Nazi salute to Hitler as they went past.

Some consequences of the Government's decision to oppose the games have still to be worked out, Mr Hurd revealed. One concern is the official advice to be given to the broadcasting media on whether to cover the games or not.

"Obviously we cannot give orders to the BBC or Independent television", Mr Hurd said. "We shall have to consider it carefully."

A growing number of countries shared the British view, and there might be further developments in the next few months. The Olympic Association had said: "May we reply to the Soviet invitation, and individual athletes could take their decision still later."

The fact that everyone was free to work out their positions, though it might be better if the West as a whole was agreed was one of our difficulties and one of our strengths, Mr Hurd added.

White House officials are hoping that the United States Olympic Committee will finally approve a boycott as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for an alternative series of games

## The Trade Fair that will open your eyes

Hall No. 1, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham March 2nd-6th 1980

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## Priest murdered in latest Uganda violence

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb 20

The Ugandan authorities are facing serious problems of internal security, from both Ugandan criminals and from members of the large Tanzanian military force which overthrew former President Idi Amin last year.

In the latest incidents, Father Wilfred Lepine, aged 56, a French-Canadian Roman Catholic priest, was shot dead yesterday by men who stole his car. An Tanzanian soldier charged with murdering three Ugandan policemen was set free by a group of armed Tanzanian soldiers who intercepted his escort.

Dr Barnabas Kumanika, the acting Interior Minister, promised a full investigation and said efforts were being made to return the Tanzanian soldier to custody.

The wave of crime in Uganda and the failure of the police and the Tanzanian Army to control it were among the reasons for President Binaisa's recent dismissal of Mr Paulo Muwanga as Interior Minister. Mr Muwanga and his supporters have responded by seeking support to oust President Binaisa.

### President Tito

Belgrade, Feb 20.—President Tito's condition remained grave yesterday although he maintained a slight improvement.

Hundreds of Soviet troops reinforcements have arrived in Jalalabad from Kabul and the Russian garrison here, which stood at about 1,400 a week ago, now numbers about 3,000 combat troops. Afghan soldiers have cordoned off the road leading to the city's airport where Soviet transport aircraft are arriving every three hours.

The military threat that this poses to Pakistan scarcely need be emphasized. Tito's only 60 miles from the border at the Khyber Pass and Russian troops are also reported to be encamped in numbers north of the village of Spinboldak, south of Kandahar, where rebel groups are also particularly active.

A large concentration of Soviet armour so near the Pakistan border cannot fail to increase international tension and it would only need one overenthusiastic Russian officer to embark on a non-punitive raid across the frontier to provoke a superpower crisis.

By the same token, any increase in rebel activity, such as that which is now being witnessed in this part of Afghanistan—is beginning to look like those painful newscasts of the Vietnam War.



The exuberance of winning the Canadian general election shows in the face and actions of Mr Pierre Trudeau in his office in Ottawa.

## Russians dismiss EEC proposal that Afghanistan become neutral

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Feb 20  
The deadline set by President Carter for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan passed today without the Russians taking the slightest notice of it.

The suggestion made yesterday by the European Economic Community that Afghanistan should be declared a neutral country has also been dismissed. Tass quoted the French Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* as saying the idea was "absolutely unacceptable".

The EEC proposal took the American line under which responsibility for the present international tension was placed on the Soviet Union.

"This formula in reality does not reflect the existence of the sovereign rights of the Afghan people", the French newspaper was quoted as saying.

Tass said there was "no justification" for the EEC ministers assuming the right to decide the status or policy of a sovereign country. Such an attempt had failed and may repeat to the Soviet invitation, and individual athletes could take their decision still later.

The fact that everyone was free to work out their positions, though it might be better if the West as a whole was agreed was one of our difficulties and one of our strengths, Mr Hurd added.

The Soviet media have never mentioned that the American threat to boycott the Olympic Games is tied to the invasion of Afghanistan, and the press has deplored the campaign

against the games as an anti-Soviet move unrelated to the invasion.

It was clear from the start that the Soviet leadership would not be swayed to Western calls for withdrawal, and is not interested in making the conciliatory gesture of even a token withdrawal of some troops.

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, refused to set any date for a pullback during his recent talks in Delhi, and senior Politburo members have all emphasized during speeches before the republican Supreme Soviet elections that the threats to the Afghan revolution and to the Karmal regime are, if anything, increasing.

Mr Mikhail Suslov, the hard-line ideologist, said in a speech today that the American Government had used the Soviet help to Afghanistan as a pretext to launch a campaign of blackmail, slander and threats against the Soviet Union.

"But the Soviet people will not be intimidated", he added. "The American Government's actions will inflict damage primarily on the United States itself. The dangerous zig-zags in American policy undermine the prestige of that great power in which people expect a more balanced and responsible policy."

And as the tone of Soviet of Government.

Soviet response to the neutrality plan.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday that his proposal was "not a gimmick designed to put the Russians on the spot, but a genuine attempt to find a solution to the Afghanistan crisis. In truth, it is probably a bit of both."

In effect, the EEC has chosen to take at face value the Russians' claim to have intervened for the limited purpose of countering alleged Western interference in a border region of legitimate Soviet security interest. If that is so, it is said, the Russians should welcome the neutrality.

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The current tour of European capitals by Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, should give an indication of the American reaction to the EEC proposal. President Carter was advised last week and was not discouraging. But the Americans may not be happy about the downgrading of the Olympics issue.

Leading article, page 15

## Nine united on Carrington plan

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 20  
The EEC's British-inspired proposal for a neutral Afghanistan under international guarantee has been skillfully injected a constructive note into the West's hitherto purely condemnatory response to the Soviet intervention in that country and helped the Community to disguise its internal disagreement.

Arguably, by showing their hand so soon, the Nine have exposed their embryonic initiative to the risk of Soviet rejection, before its possibilities have had a chance to be fully explored. But disclosing the proposal was felt to be unavoidable because of the publicity surrounding yesterday's election.

The overriding need, in the Foreign Minister's view, was to show that the EEC could do more than simply squabble over such matters as attendance at the Moscow Olympic Games or the export of surplus butter. They also wanted to show that they have their own ideas on Afghanistan and are not mere followers of the United States.

The sudden outbreak of har-

mony did not lessen differences of opinion over the merits of boycotting the Olympics which, if anything, became even sharper at the Rome meeting.

But that issue does appear to have been relegated to a position of secondary importance, pending assessment of the

neutralisation of its neutrality.

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Leading article, page 15

## Villagers flee from Kabul's gunship attacks

Continued from page 1

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prevented by the Russians as part of their plan to flood into the Amu Darya river from the Soviet Union. Last night, for example, a long column of T-72 tanks could be observed travelling down the Salang Pass towards Kabul together with logistics and radio vehicles.

In the early fighting appeared to have broken out between Soviet troops and deserting Afghan soldiers, particularly around the airfield at Fayzabad although reports from Peshawar say that the airport has been captured by the rebels should be treated with great caution.

Statements of the superpowers should be able to avoid such a crisis. But the countryside around Jalalabad—the wedge-shaped flights of helicopter gunships, the sound of rockets exploding in tiny villages and their evacuation by the population (in itself an unprecedented phenomenon in this part of Afghanistan)—is beginning to look like those painful newscasts of the Vietnam War.

However, there is little doubt that Soviet helicopters have heavily bombed the villages of Aliasing and Aliangar, not far from Mehtarlam in Lagman province.

## World View

by Arrigo Levi

## Psychological factors explain Italy's economic successes

A successful defence of what Raymond Aron called "a decadent Europe" against the urges of the surviving empire, the Soviet Union, will certainly have to include a better management of the capitalist economy. But is there a future for capitalism? Is it not fatally losing vitality, due to the spread of suffocating regulations, rooted in the universal desire for a maximum of security with a minimum of effort? Is not the test itself for risk and profit, in a free market, dying out?

While a deliberate attempt is being made in Britain to reverse the trend to "socialism" (or rather, to the unionized, bureaucratic welfare economy) a spontaneous revival of capitalism has been taking place in another country, Italy, which had equally progressed in the same dangerous direction.

### Split mind of modern man

The Italian case seems to show that instincts are hard to die. Even today, a primitive, capitalistic Mr Hyde, with an unbridled passion for hard work and money, lives, only half asleep, inside every socialist or bureaucratic Dr Jekyll. He still wants to be a tycoon, as well as a tax evader, a "black" capitalist.

Italy has won the first "war" thanks to this army unprepared guerrilla. This is no guarantee that it will face with success the coming trials: the rate of inflation remains unacceptably high, the direct consequence of the inefficiency of state industry, wage-indexation, of the terrible deficit of the "enlarged public sector".

Economists feel compelled to call into account such intangible psychological factors in order to explain well some of the recent successes of that still mysterious object, the Italian economy. The very faults that make Italian society almost unpredictable—aggressiveness, the disrespect of rules, the selfishness of individuals and social groups—become as many virtues when transferred to the sphere of private enterprise. Thanks to these qualities, the Italian economy has reacted creatively to the challenge of the post-war crisis.

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The same people are often actively engaged in both sides: "socialists" up to a certain hour of the day, they then enjoy the fun and risks of capitalist market: the shortening of the working day has certainly

## OVERSEAS

## Begin Cabinet faces crucial vote on extremists' demands to settle among Arabs in Hebron

From Christopher Walker  
Hebron, Feb 20

A large Arab city steeped in Jewish Biblical history with a mayor who supports the Palestine Liberation Organization and a heavily guarded Jewish settlement perched provocatively on its outskirts, Hebron has long been the focal point for the Arab-Israeli conflict on the occupied West Bank.

After the murder of a young Jewish settler in its crowded Jusabah, last month, the situation has reached the point where both the American and Egyptian governments have given warnings that the future of the Middle East peace process could be undermined.

In an emotional response to the killing of Mr Joshua Sloane, an immigrant from Denmark, the Israeli Cabinet bowed to right-wing pressure and decided in principle to allow Jews to settle in the city centre. It will have to vote in the next few weeks whether to implement the decision, a move which would mark a radical change from the post-1967 policy of keeping settlers away from large concentrations of Arabs.

Jewish extremists from Kiryat Arba, the new suburb of concrete tower blocks which overlooks Hebron, have used the occasion to renew demands to return to a number of buildings in the residential area. They claim that these were abandoned by members of the small Jewish community who fled in August, 1979, after more than 50 of their fellow had been massacred by Arabs.

Israel says PLO has Soviet tanks

From Moshe Brillant  
Tel Aviv, Feb 20

The Israeli Military Command today released intelligence photographs which it claimed confirmed that Soviet T-54 tanks had reached Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

In a background paper this evening, the command said the tank deliveries, which were the first by the Soviet block to guerrilla forces in the region, are ominous proof that Moscow was going ahead with plans to organize the guerrilla forces along regular Soviet lines.

The document asserted that the Soviet Union was building the political and military infrastructure of a future Soviet satellite in the form of the "PLO" and had invested hundreds of millions of dollars in it.

The command published an aerial photograph showing two tanks on a ground photograph showing one. "The photographs clearly enable the identification of T-54 tanks," a spokesman said. He added that they had been taken recently in the Sidon region under the control of the PLO.

Israel had reliable information, he said, that additional shipments of communist tanks and war material would reach the guerrillas soon and that Palestinians were completing armoured warfare training in Syria and in Soviet block countries.

In the short term, the tanks would jeopardize the tenuous balance of power in Lebanon it is believed.

## Nations of South united by dependence on North

The fifth article in a series on the report of the Brundt Commission.

By Roger Berthoud

The nations of the "South", ranging from a booming half-industrial nation like Brazil to a poor land-locked country like Chad, share a common predicament, says the Brundt Commission report. These countries are dependent on the "North" and many are bound together by their colonial experience.

The nations of the South, including China, have three quarters of the world's population but live on one fifth of the world's income. In the North, the average person lives more than 70 years, will rarely go hungry, and will be educated at least to secondary level.

In most countries of the South, a majority of people have a life expectancy closer to 50 years. In the poorest countries, one in four children dies before the age of five. One fifth or more of all people in the South suffer from hunger and malnutrition; 50 per cent have no chance to become literate.

The North's countries dominate the international trading system and contain more than 90 per cent of the world's manufacturing industry. Most patents and new technology belong to multinational corporations of the North, which conduct a large share of investment and trade in raw materials and manufactured goods.

In the North, ordinary people face genuine problems: uncertainty, unemployment, inflation and so on. In the South, the poorest face total deprivation. Malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, high birth rates, underemployment and low income interact to close off the avenues of escape.

Estimates of the number of destitute range from 700 million to 800 million. Mass poverty remains a mainly rural affliction: the poorest people in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and most of Africa are still in the rural villages.

Literacy has made variable progress. About one third of adults in developing countries

Most of the extremists support *Gush Emunim* (Block of the Faithful), the group which espouses the right of Jews to live in any part of the biblical land of Israel. They stubbornly disregard the opposition of Hebron's 50,000 Arabs to the proposed move, or the sheer impracticability of moving families into a hostile environment.

"This is no longer 1929 and we now have our soldiers and strict laws to defend us," explained Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who helped to set up Kiryat Arba 10 years ago. "If the Army left, we would be killed so there must be an indefinite occupation. We want as many Jews to come and live here as possible."

Other supporters of a Jewish return to Hebron are more openly advocating the exodus of the Arab population from the city and the rest of the world regarded as holy by the Jews. Speaking during the recent curfew which kept 20,000 Arabs confined to their homes, Rabbi Haim Druckman, a member of the Knesset, told a crowd of several hundred Jews: "Anyone who does not want us here can find somewhere else to live."

As a start, the settlers have submitted a list of five buildings in the city centre which they claim can be occupied immediately. But Mr Yitzhak Zamir, the Attorney General, has ruled out the legal feasibility of occupying three of them because they are leased under protected tenancy agreements to local organizations.

## Riddle of Everest near solution

### Japanese climbers to seek Briton's body

Tokyo, Feb 20.—Did the British climbers, George Mallory and Andrew Irvine conquer the summit of Mount Everest before succumbing to an icy death in June, 1924? They were last seen about 800ft below the summit before clouds hid them from view.

One of the riddles of the world's highest mountain, which has baffled experts, may soon be solved by a Japanese team preparing for a spring expedition to climb the 29,028ft peak.

A Chinese climber, just before his own death on Mount Everest last October, reported seeing the body of an Englishman at a height of 26,500ft.

The Japanese team will be searching for a camera carried by Mallory and Irvine near the summit of the unsuccessful first attack party on the summit. The second and third assault parties succeeded in putting nine members on the summit.

According to Mr Hasegawa, a Buddhist priest, said the Chinese, Wang Hongbad, had been a member of the unsuccessful first attack party on the summit. The second and third assault parties succeeded in putting nine members on the summit.

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Mr Haseg

## SPORT

Football

## All flurry and little pattern as Villa stride into last eight

By Gerald Richmond  
Astoria Villa, Blackburn

A goal nine minutes from time by Alan Evans gave Astoria Villa victory over their third division round replay at Villa Park last night.

The air was heavy with tradition. Between them, these clubs had won the FA Cup 13 times, although only one of those triumphs, Astoria Villa's defeat of Manchester United in 1957, has taken place in the past 50 years. The game was off the serious pace, but the running was energetic and not feared by this emerging Villa side.

Even so, Blackburn, after so early and public change of shorts by their player-manager Howard Kendall, created the early danger. Rimmer raced to the edge of his penalty area, in action, as an ex-sweeper, to clear from Garner, but was in trouble when Kendall flicked on a free kick. Fortunately for the goalkeeper Gibson was able to clear it a few moments later. Rimmer, who had been sent off by Kendall pass over the bar.

In all the flurry, little pattern emerged, hard though the delicate Cowans tried to form one. Challengers continued to be fierce and the left-winger, Geddis, and Rimmer lying flat in the penalty area. By this time, Crawford had a bandage round his head after an accidental clash with Rimmer. Arnold did well to clutch McNaughton's belt, from another free kick. Geddis should have given Villa the lead. McNaughton headed strongly into the area but Geddis got far over the ball that it had no forward momentum.

## Youngsters called in to work Bolton miracle

As Arsenal contemplated an FA cup sixth round tie at Watford and the prospect of a third successive Wembley appearance, Bolton Wanderers had won the title of the season's surprise. The stark contrast emerged on Tuesday night after Arsenal's 3-0 win in a fifth round replay over a Bolton side of doubtful first division quality.

Bolton's frustrated caretaker-manager, Stan Mortimer, said: "I like having your head against a brick wall but you have to carry on doing it. We must be favourites for relegation along with Bristol City and Derby and it will need a miracle to save us. We must look for a run of five or six successive wins but the way we are playing I can't see that happening."

Few saw Bolton's meek exit at Highbury would disintegrate. They kept the scoreline down only because of brave goalkeeping by McDonaugh and Greaves and Morgan are due to leave the club.

### Tuesday's results

FA Cup: Fifth round replay  
Arsenal 3, Bolton 0 (2-3).  
Second division  
Wimborne 0, Weymouth 1.  
Third division  
Wimborne 1, Plymouth 0.  
First division  
Everton 1, Ross 1.  
Bolton 3, Coventry 0 (0-3).  
Fourth division  
Walton 1, Redditch 0.  
NORTHWEST PREMIER LEAGUE:  
Cheadle 3, Burscough 1.  
RUGBY UNION: Hospitals Cup: St. Helens 1, Warrington 0.  
Lancs 3, Huddersfield 0.

Second division  
Burnley 0, West Ham 1 (1-0).  
Dundee 0, Walsall 1.  
Aldershot 0, Bolton 1.  
Third division  
Wimborne 1, Plymouth 0.  
First division  
Bolton 1, Ross 1.  
Bolton 3, Coventry 0 (0-3).  
Fourth division  
Walton 1, Redditch 0.  
NORTHWEST PREMIER LEAGUE:  
Cheadle 3, Burscough 1.  
RUGBY UNION: Hospitals Cup: St. Helens 1, Warrington 0.  
Lancs 3, Huddersfield 0.

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FOR MATCHES PLAYED  
FEBRUARY 16th

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23 pts ..... £2.25

22 pts ..... £0.45

22 pts ..... £0.20

Treble Chance Dividends to units of 10p.

Expenses and Commission for 2nd February 1980 - 34.1%

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YOU CAN REALLY WIN at 25-3-1P

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22 Pts ..... £0.15

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PER RULE

Excluded and Commission for 2nd February 1980 - 34.3%

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OR GET YOUR COUPON DIRECT FROM ZETTERS LONDON, L.C.I.

LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL

SHARED BY WINNERS EVERYWHERE THIS WEEK!

Winner receives £7,676

8 GOES A PENNY TREBLE  
CHANCE - 4 DIVIDENDS

ONLY See Rule 9

24 pts ..... £21.50

23 pts ..... £10.40

22 pts ..... £2.30

21 Pts ..... £0.95

21 Pts ..... £1.05

21 Pts ..... £0.20

Treble Chance Dividends to units of 10p.

Expenses and Commission for 2nd February 1980 - 31.2%

TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COLLECTOR -

ASK YOUR FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS

## A quick way to earn title of hero, or villain

Rio de Janeiro, Feb 20.—When Tel Santana was offered the job as coach, "it's a good way to grow old quickly," and went off on holiday. Six days later Mr Santana reappeared and was ready to make his mark on steering the national side back to success by pace and superb balance. He had the advantage of Kendall's experience behind him.

With neither side willing to concede time or space, only the most skilful could impose themselves on the game. None did better in the early days than Mortimer, who opened with pace and superb balance. He had the advantage of Kendall's experience behind him.

Mr Santana, aged 48, who is regarded as a tough disciplinarian

but a good professional,

players into good professionals,

he will be under tremendous pressure as Brazil go for a record fourth World Cup triumph.

Mr Mortimer, a free kick to him.

Mr Mortimer, a free kick



## Appointments Vacant also on page 25

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER  
SCIENTIFIC DATA BASE SYSTEMS

The Crystallography and Data Bases Group of the Daresbury Laboratory has a vacancy for an applications programmer to join a team working on the development of data base systems for use by scientists in the Universities and within the laboratory. This area of work is growing constantly, and presently includes interactive retrieval systems for crystallographic and chemical data banks and a data base management system for atomic scattering data. Available computers include an IBM 370/165 and the DEC system-10 and PRIME Minicomputers of the SRC's Interactive Computing Facility.

The post offered is a permanent position on either the Scientific Officer or Higher Scientific Officer salary scales £3,591 to £5,489 + £5,057 to £6,737 respectively at a level depending upon age, qualifications and experience. Applicants of either sex should have a good honours degree in a scientific discipline and have considerable computer programming experience. Some knowledge of data base management systems would be an added advantage.

There is a non-contributory superannuation scheme, a generous leave allowance and a flexible working hours scheme. Closing date: 28th March, 1980.

Please write or telephone (0255-65000, ext. 467) for an application form quoting reference DL/721/T to:

The Personnel Officer  
DARESBURY LABORATORY  
Science Research Council  
Daresbury, Warrington WA4 4AD



## Job Opportunities

HTV will shortly be opening a new studio centre in North Wales, bringing fresh job opportunities at all grades and in all sections.

Site of the centre is at Mold (pop. 8,750) a county and market town near the attractive Vale of Clwyd, well placed for communications within North Wales and across the border (Wrexham 11 miles, Chester 12, Liverpool 19, Liverpool 23, Llandudno 39, Shrewsbury 42, Bangor 52, Caernarfon 80).

The new centre will contribute fully to HTV's coverage of Welsh affairs in both Welsh and English and staff based at Mold will have the opportunity to work on occasional outside broadcasts as well as on studio productions.

HTV is principally interested in hearing from experienced workers in television who are looking for improved job opportunities in an attractive area of relatively low house prices and living costs. Assistance with re-location expenses will be available to selected job candidates. Payment scales in general will be based on the appropriate national union agreement, plus generous local supplements.

Anyons with relevant experience who is interested in exploring further this unusual employment opportunity in Independent Television should write to:

The Personnel Manager,  
HTV,  
Television Centre,  
Cardiff CF1 9XL.



## ESCORT OFFICERS

Required to accompany official visitors from overseas on Information Visits in London and the South East and to assist in planning their programmes. The escorting work can involve irregular hours including weekend duty. Residence within easy reach of Central London is therefore essential. Applicants should have a sound knowledge of the London and its institutions and some knowledge of the governmental, industrial, economic and social structure of present day Britain, and of national and international affairs. Experience of similar work and language qualifications would be an advantage but neither are essential.

This is seasonal employment initially for periods up to 3 months with a maximum of 6 months but opportunities may arise to compete for permanent appointment. The posts are graded Assistant Information Officer. Salary is at the rate of £5,180 per annum, due for review from 1 April, 1980. Please send a postcard for an application form:

Central Office of Information,  
Atlantic House,  
Room 55, Floor 1,  
Holborn Viaduct,  
London EC1N 2PD

quoting reference number COI/OV/15/AA. Closing date for completed forms is 13 March 1980.

## INDEPENDENT TELEVISION COMPANIES

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Independent Television Companies have a vacancy in London for a young man or woman who is seeking a career in Industrial relations. Applicants should be graduates and should have had relevant experience. Conditions of employment are excellent, and salary will be not less than £5,000 a year, dependent upon age and experience.

Applications in writing, giving full details of education and experience, should be addressed to:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE,  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT,  
INDEPENDENT TELEVISION COMPANIES,  
KNIGHTON HOUSE, 52/55 MORTIMER STREET,  
LONDON W1N 8AN

## SUB-EDITOR

Sub-editor required for Scottish edition of The Times Educational Supplement based in London. Good editorial experience. Ability to take charge of layout and produce the Scottish pages in liaison with editor and staff in Edinburgh. Good knowledge of Scottish affairs essential; knowledge of Scottish education an advantage.

Apply Stuart MacLure, Editor, The Times Educational Supplement, P.O. Box No. 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

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To take an enthusiastic part in day to day running of busy family owned hotel. Applicants must be good cooks and have the personality, hope of humour and stamina and ability to supervise. This senior, responsible post offers a man wishing to gain practical experience in management level. Good opportunities for promotion provided. Salary etc by arrangement after interview. Starting April.

Apply in writing with photo: Colin Tindall, Director, Loch Mhor Hotel, Ardnamurchan, by Oban, Argyll.

## HOTEL BOAT CREW

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We operate luxury hotel berths in England, Scotland and France. We require good cooks and cabin staff as well as people to clean and work the hotel. Vacancies are available in various towns and villages. A diving licence, some swimming experience, good health and a good character are required. Good opportunities to work abroad with good sailing and diving and career opportunities. Details of age, qualifications, experience etc required:

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We have a vacancy for a Solicitor with experience in collision, salvage and related claims, and litigation. Applicants, who should be prepared to practise in Hong Kong, if required, for an agreed period (normally 2 years), should write in confidence with Curriculum Vitae to:

Mr D. J. Eland

SINCLAIR, ROCHE & TEMPERLEY

Stone Street

128-140 Bishopsgate

London EC2M 4P

Tel: 01-577 9844

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## ART GALLERIES

## ROTHSCHILD GALLERY, GROSSEY, LANE

February 6-27th, 20, Corst Street, W1. Mon-Fri 10-12.30, Sat 10-12.

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Piccadilly, London, W1.

until 20th March 20. Open, Daily

10-5 pm. Weds and 8 pm. Recreational evenings. Admission 10/-, £1. Half price to students, children and 1.42 pm on Sun.

## Serpentine GALLERY

10, Regent's Park, London, NW1.

February 6-27th, 20, Corst Street, W1. Mon-Fri 10-5 pm. Sat 10-12.30, Sun 12-1.

## Somerset House

Strand, London, WC2.

Irish Patchwork 1800-1900. Until 18th March. Admission 10/-.

## Tate GALLERY

Millbank, S.W.1.

1st-17th Feb. 10-5 pm. Sun 12-1.

Thackeray Gallery 18th February

St. Kensington, S.W.1.

Admission 10/-.

## The GOLDFIN GALLERY

9, Grosvenor Gardens, W.1.

Open 10-12.30, 1-5 pm. Sun 1-5 pm.

## VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

22, February. Adm. 10/-.

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## Treasure hunters. Turn to The Times For Sale columns.

## THE TIMES

## Is breast cancer next for a treatment breakthrough?

At last the tide seems to be turning in the medical battle against breast cancer—the most common cancer in women. Despite enormous research efforts dedicated to the disease have shown depressingly little change in the past 40 years, but several recent developments provide grounds for optimism.

Mortality was cut in some forms of cancer in the 1970s—notably childhood leukaemia and lymphatic cancers such as Hodgkin's disease—by treatment with combinations of drugs such as cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and vincristine.

Specialist units throughout the world conducted a long series of research trials in which groups of patients were treated with different drug combinations and kept under observation year after year, slowly but steadily improving the proportion cured and reducing the frequency of unpleasant, often dangerous side effects.

The same approach is now producing dividends in breast cancer. In the earlier major trial Dr. Gianni Bonadonna's research group in Milan is comparing the results of treating women by the conventional operation, radical mastectomy, with a combination of the same operation and treatment for a year with three anticancer drugs. Five years after the start of the trial 48 per cent of the first group of women are free of any signs of recurrence of their cancers; in those given drugs the proportion is 64

per cent. The difference is even more striking in the younger, premenopausal women: 44 per cent survival without recurrence for surgery alone and 69 per cent in those given drugs. These encouraging results have stimulated many other specialists to try similar treatment programmes—as was done with the leukaemia trials—by looking at small variations in the treatment in an attempt to improve the results.

Should drug treatment now be combined with surgery in every case? The current consensus of surgical opinion is that such a decision would be best made by the surgeon himself. The drug treatment is unpleasant and longer evaluation is needed both to assess its effects on mortality and any possible delayed complications.

The second important change in attitudes to breast cancer has been wider recognition of the variability of the disease in different women. Some have fast-growing tumours which, without treatment, cause rapidly fatal illness. Others (rarely) have tumours which have little effect on health for 15 years or more. Age and hormonal balance are further important factors and much current research is aimed at assessing the pattern of the disease in individual women. Tests carried out at the time of diagnosis can help establish how far (if at all) the disease has spread, and taken into account with the other factors

will determine the optimum line of treatment.

Thirdly, and possibly as an effect of pressure from women's groups, cancer specialists have developed several ways of minimising the mutilating aspects of treatment. One method is for the operation to be restricted to simple removal of the lump followed by radiotherapy. Another alternative is for the breast to be removed but for a silicone replacement to be fitted beneath the skin within immediately or some months later. Certainly the massive operations that were so common 10 years ago are now recommended for less often.

Part of the explanation of the swing towards less radical surgery may be that women are coming for treatment earlier. One of the few certainties about breast cancer is that the smaller the lump, the better the outlook. As more women have learned techniques of self-examination or begun to attend regular screening sessions, the proportion is rising with small tumours when first seen by a surgeon.

The combination of greater awareness among women of the importance of early treatment and of improvements in that treatment should lead in the coming decade to a progressive reduction in mortality from breast cancer—at last long.

Dr Tony Smith  
Medical Correspondent

## Screening for early diagnosis

Screening for breast cancer could lead to a cut in the number of deaths from the disease by as much as a half, judging by early results from the first major breast screening project in the country.

It is just one year since the government set up the project to screen women aged 45 to 64 in two centres, Guildford and Edinburgh, to determine the impact of screening (both by X-ray and examination) on the mortality rate. In two other towns, Nottingham and Huddersfield, the effectiveness of self-examination of the breast is being studied and in seven years, details of breast cancer in the four centres will be measured against those in four unscreened towns.

First findings from Guildford, where 7,500 women have been screened, show a pick-up rate of five breast cancers per thousand women. But there is significant evidence that the cancers are smaller, less widespread and in more women operable than those which come through the usual channel of "our patients" clinics. The one other large-scale breast screening project, in New York in the 60s, showed screening cut the death rate by one-third. At Guildford, however, more advanced techniques are enabling cancers to be detected at an earlier stage.

The size of a tumour, its stage of development and degree of spread are all important in gauging the outlook for the patient. In the screening project, only 10 per cent of women who had cancer had a tumour which had spread to the lymph glands, generally a sign of a poorer prognosis, as against 40 per cent of those at clinics. Again, half the patients at clinics have tumours of five centimetres in diameter or more, which means they are too advanced for radical surgery to be the sole answer. Those have to be treated with radiotherapy.

In the project, however, the equivalent percentage was 20 per cent. The proportion of big and widespread tumours is

expected to be even less this year, as the first year will have screened out all advanced cases.

Women with small, confined breast cancers do well. If the tumour is no more than two centimetres across, as was the case with over half those operated on for cancer in the sample, there is an 85 per cent likelihood the woman will live at least 10 years: under one centimetre the likelihood is 95 per cent, which is normal life expectancy.

Another encouraging finding is that the screening is detecting women whose cancers are at such an early stage that they do not have to have the breast removed. With pre-cancerous lumps still at the stage where they have not spread beyond the first tissue layer, the pre-invasive stage, then it is possible to have a segment of breast excised and by skilful stitching of the rest of the tissue, reconstruct the breast.

If the pre-invasive cancer is scattered throughout the breast at several sites, then instead of removal of the breast, the total breast tissue can be taken out, leaving the outer skin under which a false breast or prosthesis is inserted. Five of the 35 cancers detected last year were dealt with by some reconstruction of the breast.

One criticism sometimes made of breast screening is that operations are done unnecessarily, on doubtful lumps which turn out to be benign. Guildford carries itself as one of the lowest false rates of any such project to date. The 7,500 women screened represented a response rate of 69 per cent of all invited, figure slightly different because of emigrants with addresses and the provision of breast-screening by one or two firms in the area such as Marks and Spencer. Only very few women failed to come through fear, most feeling it better to know about their health than worry in ignorance.

Of the 7,500, one in eight were recalled

for further checks and of these one quarter referred for surgical opinion, which was under 2 per cent of all screened. Of these in turn, only two thirds had an operation, with five cancers discovered among them for every seven lumps that were benign. The usual ratio is one cancerous lump for every five benign.

Obviously a big factor in determining the value of such screening nationally will be cost. Dr Barbara Thomas, project co-ordinator, estimates that with the project cost last year at £120,000, the cost per woman screened is £15, or £3,000 per cancer found. The cost of screening for cervical cancer works out at roughly the same, at about £3,500 per cancer. But she says it can be done much more cheaply, at a cost of £7 to £8 per woman, using X-ray alone, although the pick-up rate might be 90 per cent of that when both mammogram and examination are used.

But national screening would be quite impossible, doctors argue, without proper back-up facilities in the way of interested surgeons, pathologists, and radiologists, all trained to interpret the signs of breast cancer. Nurses at Guildford have been trained to examine breasts and doctors other than radiologists to read the mammograms (after part-time women doctors working from home), and there is a large back-up staff of volunteers to help with the paperwork.

This training ought to be going on throughout the country now, if Dr Thomas' predictions are correct and a need for national breast screening is confirmed by the project results in seven years. She emphasises that the screening is not going to prevent the disease itself but prevent people dying from it. With 12,000 deaths a year from breast cancer in England and Wales, a cut of half would be no small saving in lives.

Frances Gibbs

## The grain with everything

With And you'll taste the difference."

How did the author of this stimulating selection of recipes align on her extraordinary title? "One day, almost three years ago, when I was cooking at the MacDowell Artists Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, I packed in the colonists' lunch baskets my favourite uncooked bread—an invention made from whole wheat flour, apricots, raisins, bananas, yogurt and walnuts.







New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## jam or the World MEANINGLESS TRIBUNAL

United Nations has a fundamental responsibility to end and preserve international law. It also has the task of settling international disputes whatever peaceful means are appropriate. The continued capture of the hostages in Iran has compelled the United States to jettison one of those principles in pursuit of the greater good. In giving its imprimatur to the five-man Commission investigating the alleged crimes of a former Shah of Iran, the United Nations is playing a dangerous game. It is saying, in effect, that it is prepared to submit to one of the serious and blatant acts of national illegality of the US in the hope of gaining release of the American hostages, and, as a secondary objective, promoting the normalization of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union in the context of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

There is no doubt with the best of us that the United Nations agreed to the appointment of the Commission, and it is to be hoped that as a result the captives will soon be set free. But it has created an unfortunate precedent which could greatly diminish the UN's reputation and authority: it has conferred responsibility on international terrorism by governments.

The Commission has been set up as a direct response to blackmail. A government guilty of a gross violation of international law has been allowed to dictate the terms on which it may—and there is no certainty that it will—cease its illegal conduct. The very existence of the Commission is a capitulation to terrorism. The composition of the Commission is equally suspect. The Ayatollah Khomeini has, in effect, had the power of veto over the Commission's membership. No one unacceptable to him was eligible. This is not to suggest that those appointed will approach their task dishonestly; but they are the chosen judges of a criminal party to the dispute they are considering. That must destroy their claim to be regarded as impartial.

The investigation will meet not even the most basic principles of natural justice. There will be no independent scrutiny of the evidence, no cross-examination of witnesses, no attempt to ensure that any denial or explanation or defence on the part of the former Shah is heard and taken into account. It will be an entirely one-sided affair, staged-managed by the Iranians to achieve a particular result.

The Commission will, more

over, be in session with the hostages still in captivity, and no assurance has been given publicly by the Iranians that they will be freed before the Commission finishes its work. It is likely that an agreement has been reached, in private, for their release, but the possibility still exists that the fate of the hostages will become conditional on the findings of the Commission being satisfactory to the Iranian government.

No investigatory commission, so tainted in the circumstances in which it was set up, so suspect in the composition of its members, so subject to pressure during its hearings, so unfair in its procedures, could possibly reach conclusions acceptable to the international community. Whatever its findings, they cannot be given any credence or respectability. It is especially important that they should not be accepted by Panama as valid evidence in support of a request for the former Shah's extradition. The Shah may indeed have committed or ordered or allowed many of the crimes alleged against him, but this Commission is not the body to establish that. The United Nations has participated in a shabby device for an honourable purpose. The device may work, but the instrument used has no validity.

## NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN

Nine seldom find it easy to reach a common view, especially on foreign affairs. Afghanistan imposed a particularly difficult test because so many interests were involved. The British Government it was easy to take a strong stand against Soviet aggression because it has relatively slender political and economic relations with the Soviet Union and no domestic complications in its area of policy. For President Giscard it was more difficult because of his higher level of trade and closer political ties with the east, and because of the domestic requirement to continue demonstrating the United States. For the West German government the challenge was more difficult and complex. Germany has roughly four times the level of trade with Soviet Union, buys considerable quantities of Soviet oil and has invested deeply in its relations with its neighbours. She had to be not only this but also essential relations with the United States, which is more frankly acknowledged. Europe's initial response was, therefore, confused and inadequate. Even now, disagreements

remain over what to do but fortunately there is a spreading awareness of the wider threat that could develop if Soviet aggression is not checked. It is seen that whatever the Soviet reasons for invading Afghanistan the continuing presence there of substantial Soviet forces creates a new and dangerous situation. This must have contributed to the relatively harmonious meeting of the foreign ministers of the Nine in Rome on Tuesday. More important was that Lord Carrington's proposal that Afghanistan be accorded some kind of neutral status enabled the Nine to move on from the punitive to the positive.

The proposal is a good one as far as it goes. It points the way towards a lasting arrangement for an unstable area and it offers the Russians a way out of Afghanistan if they want one. Moscow's discouraging first response need not be taken as the last word. The Soviet leaders cannot relish the prospect of prolonged guerrilla warfare. If they are really interested in security rather than in further conquest they can hardly fail to develop some interest in a solution of this sort. If, on the other hand, they are set on extending their influence the proposal will force them to show this.

## UMBS DOWN FOR MR ROBINSON

Michael Edwards got it when it came to the point at Leyland that the Longbridge part of the town was not to be pulled down in the sake of their sacked constituency. Mr Derek Robinson, MP for the town, who came to the meeting, martyred also by the men, they come to canonize him as a fool of time, as he says they may, will be satisfied to hold a palm frond in his hand. In the meantime, as an awful example of what happens to powerful shopkeepers who abuse the interests of the people, he represents. The latest score in the battle of British Leyland is one in favour of the government. The ballots on the my's recovery plan and on

the repudiation of Mr Robinson, the convenor who advocated disruption of that plan after its approval, have both gone the way of the management's way by crushing the current pay offer went the other way on a much closer vote. That was not a vote for a strike or other trade union sanctions in support of the pay claim. It was an instruction to go back and negotiate a better deal. Sir Michael Edwards repeated yesterday that he has no money with which to up the offer with productivity in return. That is what Sir Charles Villiers has been telling the steel workers. The difference is that at British Leyland the workforce appears to be on the brink of believing it: at British Steel they are not. Among the managerial skills required in the chairman of

Eric buildings  
Mr Bernard Kauks

Colin Barker is right to draw (February 9) to the problem of finding beneficial uses for listed buildings, but not, by implication, the State for the Environment for not treating the many associated with listed buildings seriously.

He is accusing him of inaction because he overruled his recommendation to reconsent to demolish the latter Arts Hotel, of what advice he gave him for persuading and convincing his recommendation to the demolition of the Liverpool?

Reason for demolition of the building is owing to the fact that it was acquired by the C (South-East Lancashire and Cheshire) Passenger Executive at a working the proposed Picc-Vic the building was unoccupied number of years. When eventually and finally its parliamentary powers had gone so far past it of no return that the cost of getting it back into beneficial use had been prohibitive.

As the loss of this is, it must not be attributed to a malicious will of any of the bodies concerned which is often assumed the case by conservation

interesting to note that in great cities of Manchester, Liverpool both county authorities entered into voluntary hip ventures with us to restore a number of our buildings. They are providing

this support over and above their passenger transport executive commitments.

It is heartening and encouraging to see two large important local authorities entering into such early and informal agreements with us which result in effectively integrating a national industry into the local civic environment.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD KAUKS,  
British Railways Board,  
222 Marylebone Road, NW1  
February 13.

### Trade unions and the law

From Mr Norman Stampfer

Sir, Mr Keith Fagan's thoughtful letter (February 9) is a refreshing change from the vituperative and unsupported assertions which characterize many of your correspondents' contributions to the debate on trade union power. All the same, I think his conclusion is wrong and should like to explain why.

A union is not a person (except perhaps as a legal fiction) and it is surely nonsense to attribute to it either the possession of power or the experiencing of human sentiments. It is individual trade union leaders who wield the power and individual trade unionists who think and feel and express opinions. Thus when Mr Fagan says "unions would see any future legislation which seeks to limit their powers as an infringement of the rights of their members" his statement is meaningless. Substitute "union leaders" for "unions" and the meaning becomes clear, but few rank and file trade unionists would agree with the opinion if they understood its implications.

Again, in his last paragraph, Mr

Fagan misleads us and himself unwittingly by failing to distinguish between trade union leaders and ordinary members. He says: "I think if [unions] had power has to come because trade unionists themselves see a need to limit their powers." That is asking for superhuman forbearance, but of course it is the leaders' power that needs limiting and the ordinary members who should see the need. Perhaps they do already and all that is needed is legislation to impose democracy on their leaders!

Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN STAMPFER,  
14 Acland Court,  
Colchester,  
Essex.

February 15.

### Away from prying eyes

From Mrs John Stephens

Sir, it is hardly credible!

As reported in your columns (February 18, page 3) a poultry farmer sells some hens whose condition arouses the concern of the RSPCA, and the Secretary of the National Egg Producers' Retailers Association advises him and others like him to do what? To ensure that their birds are so well kept that no RSPCA intervention will be called for?

No. To beware of "old ladies secretly working for animal welfare" and of customers who want to "wander round" the premises! Out of his own mouth he, and his methods, stand condemned.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY C. STEPHENS,  
The Vicarage,  
Thursley,  
Godalming,  
Surrey.

February 19.

## Cost to Britain of farm proposals

From Mr Wynne Godley

Sir, The President of the National Farmers' Union (February 19) argues quite correctly that the adoption of the Commission's proposals for a very small rise in common prices would be disadvantageous, if not "disastrous" for British farmers.

The reason for this is that because sterling is so strong it is no longer possible, through green pound devaluations, for our farmers to benefit from price increases in excess of common prices.

We thus face an extraordinary new predicament. If common prices do not rise much, our farming industry will have its real income substantially and progressively reduced. But the British taxpayer and consumer will have to go on paying out around £150m a year in foreign exchange, mainly for the support of foreign agriculture.

On the other hand, if common prices are raised significantly, as the President of the NFU proposes in his letter, the foreign exchange cost to the British taxpayer and consumer will be increased far beyond the £150m at present in prospect.

Yours faithfully,  
WYNNE GODLEY,  
Department of Applied Economics,  
Cambridge.

February 18.

### Anthem for youth

From Mr Peter Doughty

Sir, The opinions expressed by Mr Stephen Smith (February 15) on the subject of the reserve forces is unfortunately indicative of the widespread ignorance of the role and training standards of the modern Territorial Army.

Though one is hesitant to contradict a gentleman who so confidently speaks for "the vast majority of young people in this country" the TA of today is not an "amateur conscript rabble" nor is it merely a quantitative reinforcement of the Regular Army.

Manned by many thousands of young people, whose outlooks, younging, tend to eclipse the noble thoughts of Mr Smith, the TA has shown great success in attaining the high standards of technical and professional skill that all of us recognize as being vital if a viable defence structure is to be maintained.

Along with Mr Smith his abhorrence of any romanticization of war farce for the horrors that it will unleash will be too dreadful for most of us even to contemplate. However, however, as the recent increases in TA recruiting figures reported in *The Times* last week would seem to indicate, not everyone has decided to follow Mr Smith's dismaying example of declining such a negative resolve as a result of such adherence.

It is heartening at least to think that in common with many such young people, I share both the belief that *Nemo* must be ready and able to meet all aggressive acts of the Soviet bloc, and that a volunteer defence force has an increasingly important contribution to make to further such ability, and share the hope that the present Government's policies are a move towards such increased readiness.

I am, Sir,  
yours faithfully,  
PETER DOUGHTY,  
219 Redland Road,  
Redland,  
Bristol.

February 15.

### A doctor's time

From Mr David Caro

Sir, I run a large and busy accident and emergency department in London. We have a happy working relationship with the police and from time to time it is necessary for doctors from this department to attend court to give evidence. Many of life courts, especially those close to the hospital, make special arrangements so that the doctors' time is not wasted: however, on other occasions a doctor is called and may spend a whole day at a court, only to find that the case has been adjourned or that his evidence is not required that day.

I am prompted to write this letter today, because one of my junior doctors has had the whole morning in a court. This is the second attendance for the same case as on the previous occasion he was not required because the case was adjourned, and again the same thing has happened today.

I realize the courts do have their own difficulties in getting all of the witnesses present, but it seems to me to be unnecessary to call a doctor to a court house before it is certain that he will be required that day. There must be some indication that a case is unlikely to be heard, and although I instruct the doctors to impress on the police that they should not be asked to attend unless there is definitely required, on two occasions when mornings have been wasted and patient care here has been delayed.

Perhaps the authorities that organize courts will read this letter and devise a simple system to save professional time.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CARO,  
Consultant in Charge,  
Accident and Emergency  
Department,  
St Bartholomew's Hospital,  
West Smithfield, EC1.

February 13.

### A lively art

From Mr Trevor Harvey

Sir, Mr Sam Heppner (February 19) suggests that the Post Office should commemorate the deaths of Elgar, Davies, and possibly Norman O'Neill in 1984 by special issues of stamps. Without wishing to detract from the gifts of the last-named may I remind Mr Heppner, and the Post Office that Gustav Holst died in 1934?

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR HARVEY,  
1a Chiswick Place, SW1.  
February 19.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Better 'wet' or 'hard faced'?

From Lord Alport

Sir, David Wood's comment (February 18) on Sir Ian Gilmore's Oxford lecture does not do full justice to the historic attitudes in the Conservative party, which the speaker sought to analyse.

The Labour landslide of 1945 certainly came as a profound shock to the Tory Party. Although a leader in The Times, often in his remarks were announced concluded that it was probable that there would not be another Conservative government during the remainder of the twentieth century, many of the younger men and women in the party saw the defeat as a heaven-sent opportunity to refashion Conservatism in the light of the huge social and economic changes which had taken place since 1945.

We wanted to get away from the legacy of the "hard faced" business man who had done well out of the First War, the bitterness created by the General Strike, mass unemployment, the social injustices of the 1930s and the prospect of class confrontation.

Under the leadership of Churchill, Butler, Macmillan, Eden, Woolton and others, we succeeded.

The result was that the Conservative party provided Britain with a

government for 13 consecutive years; the nation avoided the social breakdown which so many of its well-to-do supporters believed was imminent and the vast majority of the population enjoyed the benefits of rising standards and full employment.

What concerns the Tory Democrat section of the party, who are apparently now denounced as "wet", is that the "hard-faced" element, whose attitudes derive from nineteenth century Whig traditions in politics and economics, now again appear to be in control of the country's and the party's destiny.

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GER STEV  
omat and un  
-Chancellor

## oving detail

Seldon

London: £5.95

the most intelligent  
and set her new  
the force-field of  
Admirers of  
fiction—partic  
who, like me,  
Praxis (1979) is one  
single-minded and  
English novel of  
the year. All  
is curiously in  
seven fey:

There on Mab's side,  
and lightning and  
the lored sun, and  
warmth: and they  
And spring was

on the other hand,  
Praxis for its  
and (as they saw  
in Puffball the  
is tempered by  
ture of the heroine,  
in the structural  
grabbing narrative,  
shocks, who  
to draw you to  
look in one go, to  
it's all; Weldon's glories,  
it horribly here.

It starts like a mathe  
in an exam  
half and bright and  
was large and hand  
responsible. She was  
"32" (She is, he  
add, her good; the  
novelist's genuine  
to imagine his  
early on, has that  
taken from him, and  
being a man.) What  
if (a) she goes to

live in Somerset and he stays  
in town during the week? and  
then (b) she becomes pregnant,  
falls foul of country magic  
whilst he discovers the  
pleasures of metropolitan sex?

Now a great deal is the  
answer to both questions, or  
rather not a great deal that  
cannot be altered at the clav  
the novelist's hands, for Mrs  
Weldon is both determinist and  
arbitrary in making her people  
more or less than they are.  
Our lives are all  
pantermed beyond our control  
yet all may be changed by a  
little oil of mistletoe in the  
scones. The link is human  
biology, of course, of which  
more in a moment.

A child-wife at 28, Liffey  
longs to live in the country and  
has the financial independence  
to get her own way, thus breaking  
the supposed first law of  
the sexes whereby man does and  
woman is. Richard agrees, pro  
viding they start a family. Liffey  
then loses all her money, be  
cause she is the kind of woman  
who never opens bank state  
ments for fear of humiliating  
her husband with her indepen  
dent means. But then, towards  
the end of the story she sud  
denly gets a lot more. Why?  
It is of no importance to the  
plot.

Why do the vile squatters, to  
whom Richard and Liffey let  
their flat, suddenly become  
rich? Why are we told of  
possible escaping sexual offend  
ers from a nearby jail, never  
to hear of them again? Why  
does Richard have to be dis  
covered illegitimate as well as  
Liffey? Because the novelist  
says so. Liffey gets all the  
breaks, whereas Praxis, her far  
more compulsive predecessor,  
goes none. Liffey is nose-diving  
for catastrophe from the start,  
but she fails to crash, and out  
of an appalling climax, is even

Michael Ratcliffe

forced humour about sex, ie  
what actually goes on in bed.  
No mean feat.

In the Secret State, by Robert  
McCrumb (Hamish Hamilton,  
£5.95). Futurebrian and just  
retired director of government  
super-agency probes its work  
ings. Excellent idea but, alas,  
trying to say too much makes  
going hardish.

Charlie Muffin's Uncle Sam, by  
Brian Freemantle (Cape,  
£4.95). Complicated case  
involving Romanov stamps, Dis  
neyworld, CIA, KGB, Mafia  
and discredited agents. Muffin.  
Splendidly easy read (bar one  
stylistic horror).

Blood Group O, by David  
Brierley (Faber, £4.95). Amer  
ican agent Cody (female) from  
Paris combats terrorist kid  
nappers. Very much for the  
bright boys (male or female).  
smart as Le Dossier (ppress).  
I'm a married man.

This isn't from Auberon  
Waugh's account of the Thorpe  
trial at the Old Bailey, but from  
Act Two of Joe Orton's *What  
the Butler Saw*.

Waugh reviews the trial like  
a play, with a cast of bizarre  
characters, and a farcical and  
ultimately mysterious plot. Mr  
Justice Cantley may have hoped  
for finality when he said, "Re  
member, I have the last word."  
But he didn't get it.

We have already had one  
very interesting piece of paper  
back journalism, the Sunday  
Times team's Jeremy Thorpe:  
A Secret Life. Waugh's book  
looks at the whole strange story  
again, from his seat in the stalls  
on the site where Newgate jail  
once stood:

## A seat in the stalls at the Bailey

The Last Word

An Eyewitness Account of the  
Thorpe Trial

By Auberon Waugh

(Michael Joseph, £6.50)

Sergeant Match: I'd prefer not to  
know Royalty mentioned in this  
context, sir. Have you been in  
this kind of trouble before?

Dr Prentice: I'm not in trouble.

Match: You must realise that  
this boy is bringing a serious  
charge against you?

Prentice: Yes, it's ridiculous.

I'm a married man.

This isn't from Auberon

Waugh's account of the Thorpe  
trial at the Old Bailey, but from  
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A Secret Life. Waugh's book  
looks at the whole strange story  
again, from his seat in the stalls  
on the site where Newgate jail  
once stood:

Mr John Mathew, QC: I wonder  
whether the scales of justice held  
by that figure on the dole at the  
top of this court is [sic] still  
trembling.Auberon Waugh: At the  
time, I thought that one could  
object to this opening sentence  
of the closing address in  
defence of David Holmes: on  
several grounds—that scales are  
plural and do not have ears, that  
he really wanted to know if  
they were still trembling, he  
demonstrated how it came  
about. In this he returns again  
and again to the performance  
of the judge (whom he portrays  
as an archetypal Chorus) and of  
one or two of the lawyers.It is much of the time, the  
style of Joe Orton. From odd  
premises, even odder actions  
premises. Orton's brief career as  
a playwright ran only from  
1956 to his early death in 1967.Jeremy Thorpe met Norman  
Orton in 1961, and was elected  
leader of the Liberal Party in  
the year of Orton's death.At the Old Bailey, his  
defence counsel admitted that  
Thorpe had had homosexual  
inclinations. Orton, of course,  
never doubted it, but he denied  
it. Jane Fonda has just moved  
from a New Statesman column  
to drama criticism at The Sunday Times.Apart from his introduction  
and a brief epilogue, he  
doesn't stray far from what  
actually happens in that court  
room. He was also at the com  
munity proceedings in Minehead.But mostly he is the complete  
Levittite: it is the text, and the  
production, which count.Through these he seeks to  
picture the real world of the  
four men who are accused and  
the three men who accuse  
them. He also seeks to explain  
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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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**Bryant**  
Industrial  
Construction  
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| ■ Stock markets   |
| FT Ind 458.3 down 3.5<br>FT Gats 65.96 unchanged                                |
| ■ Sterling  |
| \$ 227.95 up 75 points<br>Index 72.5 up 0.2                                     |
| ■ Dollar  |
| Index 85.7 down 0.1   |
| ■ Gold  |
| \$ 627.5 down \$21  |
| ■ Money   |
| 3-month sterling 171-173.<br>3-month Euro-\$ 154-151.<br>6-month Euro-\$ 151-16 |

### IN BRIEF

## Wrists delay final 8.4p Rolls-Royce dividend

The final 8.4p net dividend per £1 ordinary stock planned by the liquidators of Rolls-Royce (Realisations) last October may not be forthcoming for three years. It could, however, be paid in one year.

The distribution was held up by writs issued against R-R and others in connection with a Caravelle aircraft crash in 1976 in Bombay. A sum of 55p a share has already been paid. The liquidators think the claim is without merit.

Meanwhile the money involved stays on deposit earning 174 per cent, which pays for correspondence and upkeep of the share register.

### Tung bid question

M C Y Tung's Hongkong company, Orient Overseas Container, is apparently prepared to pay up to 500p a share for Furness Withy if the Monopolies Commission agrees. A move is being made to get the present 360p a share cash bid referred. A question has been tabled on the subject to Mr John Nott, Secretary for Trade.

### Armitage offer

Sir Rowland Wright, Blue Circle Industries chairman, says there is no reason why the group's £31m offer for Armitage-Shanks should be altered in any way. Ceramics investments, with a 28 per cent stake, is refusing the offer. Armitage's shares lost 54p to 55p, compared to the 99p offer price.

### Vosper contract

Vosper Thornycroft (UK), part of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, has won a £4.5m contract to design and build a new boiler house for the Oaregrave Works of British Steel (Chemicals) at Sheffield.

### Copper price tumbles

Selling by speculators forced copper prices down on the London Metal Exchange yesterday. Cash wire bars closed £55 down on the day at £1,215 per tonne and three-month futures were also £55 down at £1,232.50. Since last Friday the cash wire bar price has dropped £14 per tonne.

### Companies Bill delays

The report stage of the Companies Bill will probably be next Tuesday and Wednesday and will immediately be followed by the third reading. The Bill's progress is likely to be hampered by its 400 amendments, 150 of which have been submitted by the Government.

### British Steel accused

British Steel has been accused of mismanaging pay negotiations with 3,000 workers in its chemical subsidiary. Mr David Warburton, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, says that British Steel withdrew from the national negotiating machinery and sought to impose its own settlement. Talks are continuing.

### Philippine order

Cryoplants, part of BOC International, has won a £2m order to supply an oxygen plant and nitrogen liquefier for a complex at Laguna, south of Manila, in the Philippines.

## Earnings rise by 19.6 pc in full year to outstrip retail price index

By Caroline Atkinson

Pay rises appear to have accelerated and the average increase is set to rise sharply above last year's figure. In the year to December, average earnings went up by 19.6 per cent, according to official figures published yesterday. The January rise is likely to go over 20 per cent.

The figures were said in Whitchurch to be a "dreadful warning to the country" and the Government is disappointed at how fast wages have risen since it took office.

There is growing concern about the prospects for inflation in the coming months, given the rapid earnings rise. Ministers are keen to emphasize that big pay awards will lead to higher inflation and fewer jobs.

However, their message has clearly not got home to union wage bargainers, most of whom are anxious to ensure that their members get pay rises which at least keep up with the rate of inflation.

Earnings rises outstripped price rises in the year to December, because the retail price index climbed by 17.2 per cent. Most forecasters expect price inflation to reach 20 per cent this year.

There were two special factors pushing up the earnings rise in December, but even after taking account of these the figures suggest that the underlying rate of wage increases has been creeping up steadily.

### Kuwait cuts output by 25pc

By Our Energy Correspondent

Kuwait has finally decided to cut its oil production by 25 per cent to 1.5 million barrels a day from April 1.

Shaikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, the Kuwait oil minister, announced the government's decision on the eve of the meeting of the long-term strategy committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which begins in London today.

The level of supplies over coming years is the main item on the agenda.

Kuwait's decision is the first indication that the Opec members are going to cut back production to prevent their prices being eroded by a glut of oil.

On its own, it may not be sufficient to prevent production from running ahead of demand, but if Saudi Arabia brought its output back from 9.5 million barrels a day to the preferred 8.5 million barrels, and other countries made small cuts some of the potential glut would disappear.

The cutbacks may create problems for BP and Shell, whose contracts with Kuwait are coming to for renewal. BP buys 45,000 barrels a day and Shell 300,000 and for both Kuwait is the most important source of supply to their United Kingdom refineries after the North Sea. Both must now expect cuts and will have to make up the deficit from elsewhere.

Within Opec, production cuts have always been regarded as being for individual markets to decide, but with prices having risen so sharply over the past 12 months, there is a growing understanding that the common interest is to keep production to a level where prices are maintained.

Discussion within the long-term strategy committee will concentrate on a report which recommends ways of controlling prices in a stable manner.

The central idea is to link prices to quarterly changes in worldwide inflation and currency fluctuations, and then to raise them in line with percentage changes in the real growth in Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) geographical products.

It is argued that this will be a fair way of moving into a world of greater energy shortages for both Opec and the industrialized world, but with member states still in disarray over the present prices, the chances of the long-term strategy committee's ideas being put into practice in the near future are nil.

### Merger redundancies

Merger of City stockbrokers

J. & A. Scrimgeour and Kemp Gee is to take place on April 14. Although the two firms originally claimed that there would be few redundancies it is now likely that around 100 of Scrimgeour's 160 employees will have to go.

Negotiations are complicated

Back pay is thought to have boosted the annual earnings increase in December by about 19 per cent. On top of that, the figures have been affected by earlier settlements.

Last year many pay negotiations were delayed as people waited for the outcome of the Commons vote on the Labour Government's sanctions for breaches of pay policy, and to the fact of that 5 per cent policy. This depressed earnings in 1978 and so, raised the year-on-year change. It is thought to have added about 4 per cent of the December annual earnings rise.

The underlying level of earnings is thought to be just under 19 per cent in the 12 months to December. For the last three months of 1979, the underlying annual increases rose steadily from just under 17 per cent in October, to about 18 per cent in November, and then just under 19 per cent a month later.

According to figures released yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry, wage deals since August have ranged from 5 per cent to 32 per cent. Of 277 settlements, covering 800 manufacturers, more than two-thirds of the settlements are for less than 17 per cent and more than half for less than 15 per cent. But it is not clear how many workers are covered by the lower settlements.

January's figures will almost certainly look even worse than

## Vosper plea to MPs over compensation

By Richard Allen

Vosper, the shipbuilding group, whose British yards were nationalized nearly three years ago, has appealed to its shareholders and all Conservative MPs for help in settling the group's long-running battle over compensation.

In the letter to shareholders, Sir John Rix, the Vosper chairman, repeats his threat that the group will take its case to the European Court of Human Rights if negotiations on ultimately arbitration fail to achieve a satisfactory result.

A Vosper director said last night that the group was still hopeful that current negotiations would reach a fair outcome even though all offers so far from the Government had been completely unacceptable.

In the letter to MPs, Sir John reminds Conservatives of some of their criticisms of compensation terms when opposing the Labour Government's Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act.

Vosper's Thorneycroft made £10.7m pre-tax profit last year — more than twice the compensation being offered.

Agreement has yet to be reached on the compensation for the British Aircraft Corporation, which former owners Vickers and GEC have placed a price tag of £200m.

Meanwhile Yarrow is which Vosper has a 23 per cent stake is considering going to arbitration on its claim for compensation in the region of £15-20m.

In his letter to shareholders, Sir John Rix says it is regrettable that the advent of a Conservative Government has not resulted in a satisfactory outcome and he urges shareholders to increase pressure by writing to MPs, including Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry.

### Truck sales up 10pc

Commercial vehicle sales in Britain last month continued their upward trend, and at 24,990 were 10.2 per cent higher than a year earlier. Imports accounted for 23.6 per cent of sales against 21.42 per cent in January, 1979.

### Lucas in £11m French acquisition

By Michael Prest

Thomson-Lucas, the French associate of Lucas Industries, has paid £10m for control of Bronzavia, a French electronics manufacturer of consumer products.

The purchase is a significant step in Lucas's expansion of its European interests.

Bronzavia is a private company.

It is argued that this will be a fair way of moving into a world of greater energy shortages for both Opec and the industrialized world, but with member states still in disarray over the present prices, the chances of the long-term strategy committee's ideas being put into practice in the near future are nil.

Lucas Industries holds 49 per cent of Thomson-Lucas, the rest being in the hands of Thomson-Brandt, a major French electronics group. In his annual report to shareholders last December, Sir Bertrand Scott, Lucas's chairman, said the group had received a larger European foothold.

Last night Lucas declined to say how much of Bronzavia the French associate holds, except that it is a controlling interest. Lucas confirmed, however, that Thomson-Lucas has an option, which may be exercised soon, to buy the remainder of Bronzavia on undisclosed terms.

Bronzavia, which has two factories employing 1,200 people

## MPs told of reactor safety 'unease'

By Nicholas Hirst

Sir Alan Cottrell, a former government chief scientific adviser and one of the most respected metallurgists in the United Kingdom, told a House of Commons select committee yesterday that the Department of Energy was wrong to go ahead with establishing the American-designed pressurized water reactor (PWR) for Britain's nuclear power needs.

Using the accident at Harrisburg in the United States last year to illustrate what he regarded as inherent weaknesses in the PWR reactor, Sir Alan told the Select Committee on Energy that he was "uneasy" about the safety of the system.

His unease stemmed from the fact that cooling water was stored under pressure in a PWR to keep it from boiling. Any sudden loss of this coolant could result, as happened at Harrisburg, in water turning to steam, and operators having only a couple of minutes to make decisions.

With the British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) the gas retained its cooling properties during a leak and operators in tracing cracks when they occurred, and in the event of an emergency.

Sir Alan's evidence, which was delivered in a low key, factual manner, backed up by a written memorandum, clearly impressed the MPs, who are bound to give it considerable

weight when they come to write their report on the British nuclear programme.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, committed Britain, in a statement to Parliament last December, to building at least one PWR, providing the design passed safety criteria and a public inquiry. The statement also promised the building of nuclear power stations at the rate of about one a year for 10 years.

Cracks of 1in had been found in French PWRs. These posed no safety dangers, but would do if they were to become larger. This could create an agonizing choice as the technology for mending cracks of one inch or more in diameter in a pressure vessel was not available.

"Government would be faced with a more difficult decision," Sir Alan wrote in his memorandum. "either to take the chance of running the reactor knowing that it contained such cracks or to shut down the reactor at a fraction of its planned economic life."

Sir Alan believed that the scientific evidence he worked on was little different to that used by Sir Walter Marshall, deputy chairman of United Kingdom Energy Authority, whose report on PWRs was favourable to their introduction.

He refused, however, to be drawn into saying that it would be impossible to operate a PWR safely. His concern was with the possibility of potentially dangerous cracks forming in the essential pressure vessels which contained the radioactive core. The problems in tracing cracks when they occurred, and in the event of an emergency, was the main concern.

Cracks of 1in in a pressure vessel would be difficult to detect by today's very high

standard of ultra-sonic testing, yet cracks so small could suddenly spread without warning, leading to a disintegration of the reactor and a possible disaster.

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"Government would be wrong to go ahead with establishing PWRs."

Sir Alan Cottrell: Government would be wrong to go ahead with establishing PWRs.

In the United Kingdom he thought that all the recommendations proposed on safety in the Marshall report should be implemented. More advanced ultrasonic crack detection should be developed so that operators could be certain whether they could not be at present, to detect all one-inch cracks, and that technologies to repair such cracks should be available.

## US faces 'Herculean' energy challenge

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Feb 20

Meeting America's energy challenge would involve investment outlays on a scale and a scope not seen since the United States launched the Marshall Plan after the Second World War, Mr William Miller, Secretary of the Treasury, said in a speech in Texas. The capital required will dwarf the Marshall Plan and the Apollo (space) programme combined.

It would take at least 10 to 15 years for the United States to change its energy habits, and ensure the nation's security and economic vitality. Living standards in America would have to be cut in the short term and the energy transition would be a "Herculean undertaking".

Mr Miller said the United States needed "a massive and sustained" energy conservation effort and it must rapidly reshape its transport system with fuel-efficient cars and greatly expanded public transport networks.

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The Department of Energy estimates that the domestic oil and gas industry would have to invest an annual average of £25,000m to £30,000m this decade on exploration, development and refining capacity, just to meet the industry's minimum supply projections. Some private estimates indicated the cost would be at least £35,000m which compared with actual spending in 1978 of £20,000m.

Coal industry investment would also have to surge dramatically. The Energy Department estimated annual spending would have to be between £5,000m and £6,000m this decade, compared with just £2,400m in 1978.

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## Italy finds more gas in Adriatic

The ENI group has made six separate hydrocarbons finds in the northern Adriatic, which is already the main source of Italian gas production. The strikes were made during drilling last year on behalf of AGIP, its subsidiary, in permits which expired last October. AGIP has not announced the discoveries and declines to give information on them or their commercial prospects, but confirmation has come in a notice by the industry ministry informing operators that, because of the finds and the possibility that authority to exploit them may be sought, the areas in question are not open to new applications for exploration permits.

One find lies off Venice, the other five—Basil, Arabella, Adreina, Annamaria and Barbara—North-West—are east of Ravenna and Rimini.

### Citibank quit Moscow

Citibank, the second largest bank in the United States, is closing its Moscow office. Mr George Fugelsang, a senior vice president, emphasized the decision is not related to the current state of Soviet-American affairs, but says the bank will continue to do business with the Kremlin through Vienna, the headquarters of Citibank's East-West Services Division.

### Deficit narrows

Yugoslavia's trade deficit narrowed to 13,107m dinars (about £267m) in January from 14,436 dinars a year earlier, the federal statistics bureau in Belgrade reports. Exports totalled 13,927m dinars in January, or 2 per cent down from December, 1979. Imports at 27,034m dinars were 2 per cent up.

### Ford rebate plan

In an attempt to boost sluggish sales of some of its larger, most expensive new cars, Ford Motor Co, of Dearborn, Michigan, is about to offer as much as \$1,000 (about £439) rebate to selected customers who purchase a 1980-model Lincoln Continental, Versailles or Mercury Mark VI luxury car.

### GM plant in Austria

General Motors has announced in Vienna it will build a transmission factory in Austria. Mr Gerald Fenn, the general director for Austria, says the project would increase General Motors' total investment in Austria to 7,800m schillings (about £27m).

### Soviet pipe-order

Mannesmann Handel AG of Düsseldorf and Thyssen Stahlunion AG have jointly received a contract to supply the Soviet Union with 700,000 tonnes of large steel pipes this year. The contract is said to be worth DM700m (about £17m).

### Chemical output up

Dutch chemical industry production in 1979 is estimated to have increased by over 7 per cent, based on statistics to end November, compared with a 4 per cent rise in 1978, the chemical industry association said at The Hague.

### £16m quota cost to US

Britain's import quotas on synthetic yarns could cost United States producers about £16m in lost exports this year, according to Washington trade officials. Meanwhile, the American Textile Manufacturers Institute is to consider calling for restrictions on the United States of British woolens.

### Bon-EEC trade up

West German exports to European Community countries rose 16 per cent to DM 151,800m (£39,430m) last year, while imports from EEC countries rose 18 per cent to DM 141,300m, the federal statistics office in Weisbaden has announced.

### Energy deal revision

N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and Sonatrach, the state-owned Algerian concern, are to renegotiate a contract to buy Algerian natural gas. Mr Balkac Nabi, the Algerian energy and petrochemicals minister, said at The Hague: At present, Sonatrach is contracted to supply 11,250m cu m of gas annually to Gasunie, Ruhrgas AG and Salzgitter AG over a 20-year period from 1983.

### More Canadian steel

Canadian steel ingot output totalled 351,199 tons in week ended February 16, up 0.9 per cent from 348,236 tons the previous week, and up 4.5 per cent from 336,134 tons in comparable period a year earlier, Statistics Canada say.

### OECD report slated

Herr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian chancellor, has said that the latest OECD report on Austria based its predictions of 2 per cent real growth this year on projections from October 1979, but Austria was really on the threshold of a boom and the report was "wrong and disgraceful."

### Banks in gold market

Morgan Guaranty Trust and Citibank, influenced by the rising value of gold, are considering entering gold bullion market trading in New York, sources say.



Mr Kenneth Wilkinson: liquid hydrogen difficulties can be overcome.

£30m research plan into liquid hydrogen as replacement for kerosene

## Airlines search for fuel of the future

The United States, Britain and several other countries, including West Germany, Saudi Arabia and Japan, are embarked on a research and development programme costing \$370m (£20m) to establish whether liquid hydrogen will supersede kerosene as the aviation fuel of the future.

The programme, beginning later this year, will last for two and a half years. It will investigate the logistics of liquid hydrogen—how to pump it successfully through leak-proof lines, how to store it, and whether it is too volatile liquid to handle safely in the environment of a modern aircraft.

If the programme shows that hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft are feasible, four such airliners will be built to carry cargo on an experimental basis between four major world airports.

The aircraft will be based on the Lockheed TriStar with its Rolls-Royce RB211 engines modified to run on hydrogen gas instead of kerosene, which the aviation industry expects to become scarcer and more expensive as the decade progresses.

The hydrogen-powered TriStar, their fuselages stretched in length to accommodate the new fuel in large tanks fore and aft of the cargo compartment, would operate for a test period of two years between bases equipped with hydrogen ground systems, at Pittsburgh in the United States; Frankfurt, West Germany; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Birmingham.

At the end of this period, a decision would be taken by governments and airlines on updating the system to carry passengers. Governments would still own the experimental airline, but it would be sold to a private company if the carriage of passengers was practical.

One of the problems behind the hydrogen scheme is the Lockheed aircraft company of California, which runs a department investigating the feasibility of hydrogen-powered air transport.

The main debate is not over the transporting of the liquid, nor the safety consideration, but on whether there will

be a long-term financial advantage in hydrogen power.

At the moment, producing liquid hydrogen from the atmosphere would result in it being more expensive than kerosene. But those in favour of the scheme point out that the price of kerosene is likely to overtake hydrogen soon, and if hydrogen could also be adapted for domestic uses such as home heating the price advantage would be even greater.

Mr Kenneth Wilkinson, deputy chairman of British Airways, who is a member of an international committee set up to investigate liquid hydrogen for the aviation industry, said: "The difficulties are substantial, but they can all be overcome if the benefits look to be worth it."

The engineering problems are not too difficult, but they are going to require time and investment. We are really talking about a revolutionary change, and these are always uncomfortable if they take place in a large social structure, which is what air transport is today."

"Knowing how hard mankind finds it to understand revolution in an orderly manner, it is likely that somebody will do anything about it and will go forward for the quick and easy solution, which is 'synthetic'—kerosene made from coal, shale or tar sands. But there is no doubt that liquid hydrogen is a strong candidate for the long-term future."

Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

## Employers get say on engineering report

By Edward Townsend

The Government has made clear that it will not take action on the Finsliston report of the engineering profession "in a vacuum" and has asked employers for their reactions to the proposals.

Mr Michael Marshall, parliamentary under-secretary of state for industry, said yesterday it was widely agreed within the Government that the report had raised issues of vital importance. "It seems unlikely that any part of the manufacturing industry can afford to ignore the challenges presented by that report."

While agreeing that the issues were the right ones to consider, it did not mean that the solutions proposed by Finsliston were necessarily accepted.

"For example, the first reaction of Government to any problem is unlikely to be the establishment of a new statutory body. We will need to be convinced on this and the other major recommendations before taking action. It would be utterly wrong for us to take decisions in a vacuum," said Mr Marshall.

The Department of Industry

needed reactions, particularly from employers, for the current round of consultations on Finsliston to be effective.

Finsliston industrialists have expressed support for either support or rejection of the report, the main recommendation of which is the establishment of a new statutory engineering authority to organize the registration of engineers and accredit their education.

Among the exceptions has been Sir Terence Beckett, chairman of Ford of Britain, who said, just after the report was published in January, that without a new authority to act as a continuing focus for effort, the Finsliston initiative could be lost.

Mr Marshall, who was speaking to members of the Engineering Employers Federation, said that this report had provided a new and helpful framework for looking at problems which the report acknowledged had been evident for 150 years.

"Whether or not we agree with the solutions Finsliston offers us we must seize the opportunity here and now to give engineers and engineering their true role in industry and our society," he said.

## Building contractors' new orders down 9 pc

By John Huxley

New orders won by building contractors during 1979 were 9 per cent down in value on the previous year, according to provisional figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment.

Release of the figures, which were close to the industry's gloomy expectations, coincided with an announcement that Mr Lee Wood, general secretary of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT), has rejoined the Group of Eight, the all-industry pressure group.

Mr Wood, who withdrew last summer primarily in protest against proposed government action to curb the activities of local authority direct labour organizations, responded to a request from the remaining members of the group.

A letter from Mr Bryan Jefferson, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said that the group was becoming increasingly concerned by the Government's unwillingness to recognise some of the problems facing the building industry.

In particular, he drew attention to a recent letter from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, which, taken with other ministerial statements about public expenditure, suggested that further cuts were likely.

Mr Jefferson said: "The group is agreed that a further meeting would be sought not just with the Secretary of State but with his Treasury colleagues, and that we should leave them in no doubt about the implications for us of what is threatened."

The decision by UCATT, the largest of the building unions, to rejoin the group will be welcomed throughout the industry, when a common front is needed to avert or minimize the threat of further damaging decisions in workised.

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"Whether or not we agree with the solutions Finsliston offers us we must seize the opportunity here and now to give engineers and engineering their true role in industry and our society," he said.

Yesterdays figures show that only in the private industrial sector was there an increase in new orders during 1979. Elsewhere, public housing new orders were down 28 per cent, private housing down 9 per cent, public works down 10 per cent and private commercial down 4 per cent.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Carrington counts the cost of imports

Carrington Viyella's profits for 1979 look bad enough on an historic cost basis; on a current cost basis they would look a good deal worse. For instance the dividend, which has been more than halved to the point at which the 6.9 per cent yield at 16p is more than twice covered by reported earnings, would almost certainly not be covered on any reasonable assumptions on the replacement cost of assets.

But then, Carrington Viyella is not alone. Where the company does differ from most of the rest of British industry is in its very high dependence on a home market vulnerable to imports—and particularly imports from the "Mediterranean associates" over whose trade activities the EEC has very little control. Hence two of last year's four closures, which in all cost £2.44m above the line, and another £1.77m (expenses on liquidation plus the loss on disposal of the Italian subsidiary Carrington-Tesit) below it.

In consequence of these losses, and of the 42 per cent increase in interest charges to £8.37m, though profits on a comparable basis are down by a mere £500,000 at the trading level, at the attributable level they amount to only £4.5m as against £10.92m.

The expenses of closure have helped send short term borrowings sharply higher; but borrowing capital requirements should decline this year, and since capital spending too has been slashed, apart from seasonal fluctuations it is unlikely that gearing will rise much above the 52 per cent recorded at the year end. This implies that CV will survive, but are there any signs that it will flourish?

In several areas—notably outerwear and Dorma—Carrington Viyella in fact did well last year, thanks very largely to a policy of going up-market to beat the competition. Conditions are likely to be even less favourable this year than they were last—which in part explains the decision to slash the dividend; but given elimination of last year's closure costs the company should be able to produce pre-tax profits comparable to the £8.5m of 1979. That, however, doesn't leave much room for an improvement in the dividend in the short term. Anyone buying Carrington Viyella for recovery is likely to have to wait a long time for it.

### Discount house

### The experience of Gillett

It has not taken long for last month's speculative interest in discount houses to die away and the sector had another thin time yesterday despite the stronger tone of gilt-edged on hopes that containment of the PSBR to below £9,000m next year could provide the Chancellor with more scope to allow interest rates to fall.

Inevitably, Gillett had the hardest time with its shares sliding 34p to 190p. No one of course has been expecting other than grisly results from houses with year-end earnings coming soon after last November's 3 point MRL rise.

Alexander's after tax loss last month even after transfers from reserves was a grim reminder of the exposure to losses of those houses which, unlike Union Discount, decided to chance their arm on a fall in rates. So Gillett's halved after tax profits of £111,000, again after transfer from its hidden reserves, were no worse than feared.

What was not expected, especially after Alexander's decision to pay an uncovered dividend, was Gillett's two-thirds cut in the final "to maintain resources".

With profit comparisons between the house made difficult by inadequate disclosure, dividend growth has become the main yardstick for judging their relative merit and with Gillett's overall dividend falling from 25.3p to 15p a share gross the 7.9 per cent yield is still slightly below par for the sector.

Wrong-footed by the rise in MRL, Gillett has also not gained much benefit from being one of the most diversified of the houses. The important Kirkland Whittaker money broking side has had its contribution cut by start-up costs in New York and Bahrain while the difficulties of building up the fund management division launched only two years ago has forced the group to cut its losses there as well.

At the moment discount houses are making useful running margins thanks to the

high yield on commercial bills although Gillett, as also Union shows in its annual report, has almost withdrawn from the sterling and dollar certificates of deposit market.

So far as gilt-edged goes, the houses are only using the market for trading opportunities. Both Gillett and Union are taking a very cautious stance about the course of interest rates this year. Judging by the size of their respective balance-sheets both are almost fully invested although that is largely due to the rapid growth of acceptances as a result of the cost restrictions.

But the bill book is still short—55 days at Gillett and 40 at Union—and the houses will not easily fall again for any false trade laid by the authorities over interest rates. It is still too early to think about buying the shares.

W. H. Smith

### Financing Christmas

On the face of it, W. H. Smith's explanation for asking shareholders to authorize an increase in borrowing limits is straightforward enough. The group is invariably awash with cash—£22m at the last balance sheet—but in the run-up to the crucial Christmas trading period inflation has meant that stock financing has pushed short-term borrowings ever closer to the group's limit under existing articles.

At the moment the ceiling dictated by share capital is only around £43m and Smith wants to switch to a more normal limit equal to 1.5 times capital and reserves which would currently allow borrowings of up to £131m.

The market, however, took the cynical view, wagered that Smith is limbering up for further expansion following the £12m cash takeover of LCP Homecentres last spring, and lopped 9p from the shares at 151p as a gesture.

Smith says another takeover is out of the question although the suspicion lingers that it may be no bad thing for the group to keep its options open at the moment.

Facing saturation at home, the group's much-heralded invasion of Scotland may not amount to much unless Smith could run Menzies out of the High Street while LCP may not have quite enough muscle as yet to make a real splash in the increasingly competitive DIY business.

As a sweetener to preference holders Smith intends to raise the coupons from 4.9 per cent to 5.75 per cent, 3.15 per cent to 3.75 per cent and 4.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent, respectively. Such in current gearing that additional financing costs will be a mere £6,000 a year.

● **Racial's share price fell by 5p to 211p yesterday when the market received a sharp reminder that the institutions and other large Decca shareholders whose irrevocable acceptances of Racial's offer won the day over GEC last week did not guarantee to take Racial paper.**

Racial paid out £3.5m earlier this week for the block representing just over 8 per cent of Decca's ordinary capital owned by the Dimensists. The price of 600p a share still compares unfavourably with the paper offer now worth 633p a share, but other Decca shareholders will be watching the performance of Racial's share price and trying to gauge its performance over the next year as it digests Decca in coming to their decision about whether to take cash or equity.

At this stage, though, Racial has to remain fairly relaxed. Even if there is a heavy call on its cash alternative—which would be funded internally and through bank finance—it can reckon on releasing a fair amount of cash from Decca early on.

The sale of the television business and the successful outcome of a patent claim in the United States courts (which Decca stands a good chance of winning) could alone yield almost £30m, representing around half Decca's debt.

Still, Racial is going to end up rather more highly geared than has been the case in the past (if all Decca shareholders took cash it would be around 60 per cent geared), and a bullish profits forecast from Racial in the offer document should convince many Decca shareholders that Racial remains a good medium to long term investment.

If that is the case, then the

### Economic notebook

## Can Britain buck the interest rate trend?

We have been living with ultra high nominal interest rates for some time in the United Kingdom. It has taken a dreadfully long time for those rates to make any impression on the private sector's appetite for credit, but there does at last seem to be signs that the pipes are finally starting to squeak.

Certainly, the overall bank lending figures hardly seem to confirm this so far, but banks are now reporting a marked deceleration in personal sector loan demand. If that trend is sustained, it should not be too long before manufacturers start to look and run down what is extremely costly borrowing indeed.

But while the Government may be hoping that it will be able to offer the prospect of some fall in interest rates later this spring, or certainly by early summer, interest rates overseas appear to have started off on a new round of increases.

Rates in the United States look set to test the peaks established last autumn. Rates have also been rising in Japan and across Europe. How long or how far the new round of increases is likely to go remains to be seen.

But if the principal determinant in all this is going to be American resolution to bring the dollar supply under some semblance of control, then there are likely to be some distinctly uncomfortable months ahead.

The emphasis placed by various countries on the motives for raising their interest rates of late has varied. In some cases the emphasis clearly has been on curbing domestic credit expansion in the face of rising rates of inflation—the latest round in oil prices being a common factor here, of course, albeit that the degree of impact varies considerably.

In other cases, the emphasis has also been on attempts to forestall capital outflows to more remunerative havens, thus helping to stabilize the exchange rate and reduce the impact of the rising costs of imported raw materials.

Whatever the emphasis, however, the end effect if policies are pursued with vigour, is going to be a reduction in credit growth and, unless substantially offset by sharply higher fiscal deficits (and these seem to be less fashionable since the 1973 round of oil price increases) a fairly sharp fall in real money supplies.

The key of course is the resolution of the governments concerned to pursue high interest rate policies as far as "sound money" would require. Given that this would in effect mean acknowledging the need to pay for oil in currency that maintained its purchasing power, the implications for exports or for domestic manufacturers are indeed painful.

During the recent period of strong credit demand and high exchange rates there has been strong overseas demand for sterling. This has not been comfortable for exporters or for domestic manufacturers competing with foreign importers.

The Government has lived with this pressure to a large degree—though smoothing has tended to become more like straight intervention on some occasions—in the belief that domestic monetary policy must take priority. It might even have felt that the high exchange rate helped to take the edge off inflationary pressures, though its thinking on the short-run balance between inflation and competitiveness has never been all that clear.

But what happens next? If the domestic demand for money starts rising at a lower rate and interest rates fall, will money start flowing overseas in substantial quantities? Will that reduce the real value of the pound and raise inflation? Or will the Government's firm disinflationary line instead increase the confidence of overseas investors in the United Kingdom currency and tend to drive the exchange rate higher. The Chancellor appears to hope for a neutral effect. We shall see.

present monetary growth targets which are undeniably tight, strongly suggest that interest rates are going to have to stay higher than in the United States for some time to come. The private sector's appetite for credit, however, is still strong and is likely to be signs that the pipes are finally starting to squeak.

Where does all this leave Britain? For once it may be that we will not have to move quite so closely in line with other countries. That may sound like good news, but it would be wrong to pretend that lower interest rates are to be achieved here without some penalties, which will not be especially pleasant in the short term.

The reasons for believing the United Kingdom rates should start to come down ahead of other rates are twofold.

The first is that the economy, in spite of the momentum that has been sustained by high rates of increase in pay, looks to be moving into recession rather earlier in the international cycle than usual.

### Slowdown in private sector loan demand

The second is that in the face of mounting discomfort with the present level of interest rates, the Chancellor appears to be making fresh efforts to ensure that the public sector's borrowing requirement for the coming financial year shows no rise in nominal terms on the likely outcome for the present year of around £9,000m.

Given the probability that private sector loan demand should start rising less fast as the recession starts to bite, that should leave room for some fall in interest rates.

How great a fall will depend on two further factors, however. One will be the degree to which the Chancellor indicates he may wish further to tighten his monetary growth targets. The other will be the general response of financial markets to the Budget speech and the success the Government has in maintaining its new funding programme.

All this does, of course, ignore one further factor, namely flows across the exchanges, the exchange rate and all the related matters.

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John Whitmore

### US resolve over monetary policy

So painful, in fact, are the very thought is enough to bring an immediate feeling of reassurance even to those who have paid rather more than the present price for gold. But since though the gold hoarders may, there does appear to be a new determination about monetary policy in the United States, and there must be at least some grounds for thinking, albeit that this is election year and political pressures to "ease off" will be mounting, that the Fed would be seriously discredited were it once again to be starting to relax too soon.

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## Worker participation: the fifth directive goes into the shredder

David Wood describes how members of the European Parliament said no to two-tier boards

open Parliament last September.

Mr Amédée Turner, QC, a vice-chairman and spokesman of the European Democratic Group (renamed Conservative Group in 1980),

Turner, a patrician lawyer who unusually has chambers in Munich as well as the Inns of Court in London, fought strongly in September, and repeated in round terms yesterday in Brussels, that the German version of the directive will not become obligatory

It was a victory for the British, French and Italian right and centre members of the European Parliament over the West Germans, who wanted to see their own system of two-tier boards adopted, and over communists, socialists and democrats who wanted to give more power to the workers' side.

The Dutch, who have broadly adopted the West German system, showed where they stood, yet were ready to compromise.

But the victory is not yet complete. By all accounts, the West German officials who first framed the directive have not given up the struggle. The MEPs who carried a complete draft believe that the Commission will still stand by their original document and present it to the Council of Ministers during the summer in spite of the European Parliament.

If they do, the legal affairs committee will submit its draft direct to the Council of Ministers and make absolutely clear where majority feeling in the Parliament lies.

Orientation is able and fit in being said "necked".

Officials of the Commission, the fifth company law directive tried to steamroller through the German form of worker participation.

Given the probability that private sector loan demand should start rising less fast as the recession starts to bite, that should leave room for some fall in interest rates.

But the degree to which workers' representatives would be parties to a company's strategic and tactical decisions.

The battle between Paris and Brussels over the two-tier board proposal has been very busy lately, with the Commission's final decision.

It would, Mr Turner says, "be consultative not dictatorial".

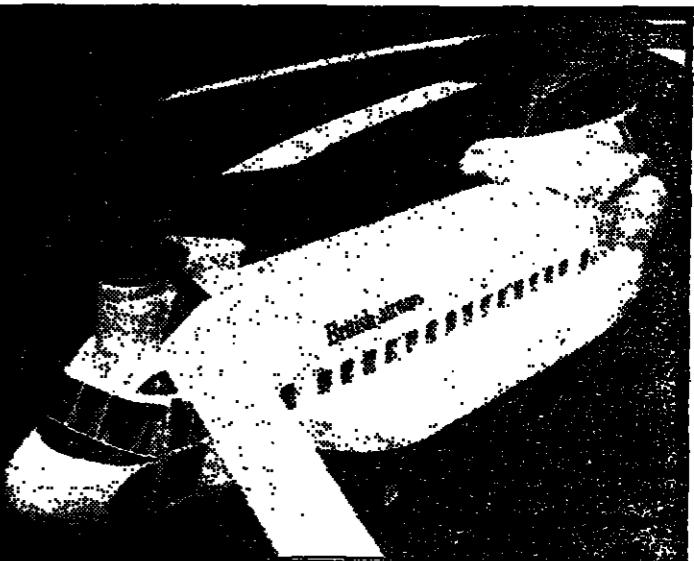
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The compromise now backed by a majority in the legal affairs committee would allow unitary boards to continue in their present form in those countries of the Nine that prefer such a system. But it also proposes that companies should be given a new institution analogous to a works council with bequeathed up rights.

The difference is that the works council, probably to the dismay of some trade unions and some local trade union magnates, would be elected by secret ballot by all employees.

### Long-distance rig hopping



A model of the Boeing Chinook: double the range of helicopters at present on North Sea runs.

natural resources takes the prospectors further and further away from the centres of population. Long-distance helicopter should come increasingly into its own.

Boeing sees growing pressure from the environmental lobby which will result in power stations—and particularly nuclear power stations—being built in more remote parts than in the past. This will result in longer transmission lines and towers; these installations could be built and serviced from Chinooks without having to leave the oil-rich countries.

The same pressure will bring townships from being built closer to the oil fields and catterpillar tracks, so that the Boeing reasoning goes, will be ideal for flying in the miners from their homes perhaps hundreds of miles away.

Under the terms of the contract between British Airways and Stena Export, the three of six Chinooks which BA has ordered will lift 50,000 men a year direct from Aberdeen to the Brent Field. Boeing estimates that there are about 18,000 men working in the North Sea fields at any one time.

Aviation industry figures suggest that there are around 130 helicopters of all sizes worth £120m flying for trade over the North Sea, with a further 50 on order.

BAM is the first customer (Bristow Helicopters have also ordered five) for the 234 LR civil version Chinook, which is based on the successful military helicopter of the same name, some 1,000 of which have been produced.

Boeing Vertol has had serious talks with BA about the possibility of city-to-city passenger operations with the helicopter. The service could be undertaken by a 70-seater version of the machine.

Fixed-wing dashboards in the air are raising sceptical eyebrows at such a plan, but with airports becoming saturated, new sites impossible to find, and the cost of "traditional" aviation rising fast, it would be a brave aeronautical crystal-ball gazer who dismissed it out of hand.

Captain Jack Cameron, managing director of BAM, has long promoted the idea of city centre services between London and Paris, and Brussels and Amsterdam. Journeys would take two hours, compared with four hours today. The higher cost of helicopter flying is likely to become progressively less important than the prob-

### Business Diary: Glossy rivals • Sixes, sevens and eight

London's railway stations are about to witness a circulation rate in one of publishing's most lucrative areas.

Involved under various guises are Associated Newspapers, owners of the *Daily Mail* and the

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Leyland vote fails to give a lift to equities

Dealers were quick to take another turn for the worse as trading resumed in New York. As a result the FT Index finished at its lowest

*Intriguing times for B. Paradise, whose shares have risen from 8p to 32p in the past 12 months following a 29 per cent stake taken by R. & J. Pullman. Mr Maurice Hope, Pullman's chairman, said last night: "There are some interesting plans afoot but I can say nothing more at the moment. They will be sooner rather than later." Paradise closed at 28p, while Pullman, whose interim figures are due today, firmed to a new peak of 50p.*

point of the day 35 down at 453.

Nevertheless, dealers were also on offer ahead of the reporting session, which starts on Friday, as rumours began to circulate that Lloyds may be planning a rights issue. This prompted falls of 12p in Lloyds to 258p, 10p in National Westminster to 36p, while Midland at 363p and Barclays at 453p were both 7p lower.

Leading industrials were variously tumbling 8p to 390p ahead of figures next week

Profit-taking clipped 5p from Pilkington Bros at 223p after some earlier investment interest as falls of 4p were noted in Glaxo at 242p and Hawker Siddeley at 174p. Setbacks of around 2p were reported by Epsom at 282p, Bencol at 124p and Unilever at 453p.

Disappointing figures and a cut in the dividend knocked Gillet Bros 34p to 190p among discount houses and in turn did little for sentiment in the rest of the financial sector.

Union Discount slipped 10p to 368p with Clive Discount 1p easier at 71p.

The four major clearing banks were also on offer ahead of the reporting session, which starts on Friday, as rumours began to circulate that Lloyds may be planning a rights issue. This prompted falls of 12p in Lloyds to 258p, 10p in National Westminster to 36p, while Midland at 363p and Barclays at 453p were both 7p lower.

On the takeover front, Fur- ness Witty remained firm at 368p amid fears that the bid from C. Y. Tung may be re-

ferred to the Monopolies Commission. This followed a question being tabled in parliament by Mr John Smith, opposition trade spokesman. An answer is expected on Monday.

Elsewhere in shipping, Stag Liners slipped 5p to 175p as profit calls are showing in a thin market. Listed Louis Newmark

which climbed 19p to 235p also following recent figures.

Profit takers moved quickly from electricals yesterday as the shares showed signs of contracting, along with the remainder of the market. Racial finished the session 5p off at 211p with GEC 3p lower

*The view is hardening that if and when the March & April session is referred to C. T. Borsing is made the Office of Fair Trading will refer it to the Monopolies Commission. United States brokers are just as fearful as those in the United Kingdom of the combined might of March-Borsing and a national list prepared for referral can always be found if others fail to stand up.*

Further reflection of Drake & Sculps recent trading statement helped it to a 4p rise from 46p. Sir Monty Morris has joined the board. Buyers were also active in the shares of Ernest Jones (Jewellers)

at 380p and the Decca twins 10p short in the ordinary at 615p and 5p off in the "A".

Old shares had another relatively firm performance boosted by persistent takeover gossip. BP closed unchanged at 402p and Shell rose 2p to 376p. Hopes of a takeover by Ultramar, 4p higher at 496p, pushed Burmah 5p better to 222p although most marketmen now begin to discount the rumours. Among second liners, Aran Energy contracted 4p to 365p, along with Siebens

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## MARKET REPORTS

## Wall Street

New York, Feb 20.—The stock market rose in active trading this morning after three days of sharp retreat. The Dow Jones Industrial average gained five points and advances led declines three-to-two.

The four most active issues were oil stocks.

February 19: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed 8.96

down at \$76.02.

Silver futures down

New York, Feb 19.—SILVER futures closed \$1.00 lower in a moderately active market on the Commodity Exchange, New York.

The unadjusted spot February futures price fell to \$10.40, down 1.00 from its speculation and the free-trading price of \$11.40. The deferred months were down 1.00 each.

Speculators' gains were

up \$105,000-\$110,000. March, \$10.60;

Apr., \$10.60; May, \$10.60; June, \$10.60; July, \$10.60; Sept., \$10.60; Dec., \$10.60.

Gold, \$100.50; March, \$100.50; April, \$100.50; May, \$100.50; June, \$100.50; July, \$100.50; Sept., \$100.50; Dec., \$100.50.

May, \$100.50; Sept., \$100.50; Dec., \$100.50.



## £6,000 plus Appointments

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There are vacancies for Senior Industrial Relations Officers (SIROs) based in Birmingham, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow, London, Bristol, Cardiff and Leeds.

SIROs offer diagnostic and remedial assistance to employers and trade unions to develop good industrial relations and effective employment policies and practices. Candidates should have the broad experience necessary to carry out this task and must also have specialist knowledge acquired from at least 5 years' practical experience of one or more of the following:

Production planning and control;

Work study and/or organisation and methods;

Job evaluation;

Remuneration systems;

Industrial Relations including collective bargaining.

Salaries are reviewed annually and are on an incremental scale. An allowance of £280 is payable for Inner London Posts.

Salary (currently being reviewed) £7,350 to £8,900.

Additional benefits include transferable pension rights on completion of 5 years service or alternatively a lump sum payable on leaving after 2 years or more service.

Appointments will be for an initial 2 years with the possibility of extension for a further 3 years.

For further details and an application form contact: Mr. J. Brennan,

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Cileland House, Page St., London SW1P 4ND.

Telephone: (01) 211 7987.

(Closing date for receipt of applications 31st March 1980).

Applications are welcome from both men and women.



**British Waterways Board**

### Pensions Administrator (Designate)

Watford £8,077/£8,644

Candidates should have experience in pension fund administration. For this interesting and responsible post, reporting directly to the Principal Personnel Officer, a good standard of literacy and numeracy is required, together with the ability to communicate at all levels. A professional qualification is desirable and applicants must be thoroughly conversant with pension legislation and be able to apply it in connection with the Rules of Pension Schemes and in giving advice so that policy may be determined and schemes developed further. Applicants, male or female, are likely to be in the age range 25-45.

Good conditions of employment, including contributory pension scheme (interchange arrangements available) and luncheon facilities. A car mileage allowance is payable for business use.

Apply, giving age and details of experience to the Principal Personnel Officer, British Waterways Board, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 3QA, quoting ref. 112/196.

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- Twelve months renewable contracts.

Application forms are available by calling Miss MacQueen on 01-352 8068, and should be returned not later than March 10, 1980. Interviews will be held in London during March and selected candidates should be available to commence as soon as possible.

### THE ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE

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Candidates must have organising ability of high order and some administrative experience gained in a professional institution, trade association or public authority. Local authority salary scale and superannuation. Season ticket scheme.

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Robert Williams,

Royal Town Planning Institute,

26 Portland Place, London W1M 8BE

(Telephone: 01-538 1987)

Applications by 21st March, 1980.

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The applicable terms and conditions of these appointments will be supplied.

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Further details and application form from Mr. M. P. Croslan, Physics Building, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NR, quoting ref. PG2/80.

Application forms are available by calling Miss MacQueen on 01-352 8068. Interviews will be held in London during March 10, 1980. Candidates should be available to commence as soon as possible.

Applications invited for new challenging position of

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Previous experience in admin-

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tions, Budgetary, Compre-

hensive, Research/Development, Compu-

ter, Marketing, with

details of previous experience/

employment to: J. P. Lloyd,

EMI Limited, Music Park,

Bedminster, Bristol, BS3 2BS.

Production planning and control;

Work study and/or organisation and methods;

Job evaluation;

Remuneration systems;

Industrial Relations including collective bargaining.

Salaries are reviewed annually and are on an incremental scale. An allowance of £280 is payable for Inner London Posts.

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(Closing date for receipt of applications 31st March 1980).

Applications are welcome from both men and women.

Box 0452F, The Times.

### DIRECTOR

#### British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

The BTCV is an expanding organisation which aims to involve young people in practical conservation work through its ten regional offices, and occupies a key position in the British conservation movement.

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Further details and application forms from: Veronica Laurie, BTCV, 10-14 Duke Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1LP. Closing date: 7th March 1980.

Box 0452F, The Times.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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Group Charitable Trust

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Part-time and salaried by negotiation apply for a permanent contract with good working conditions and remunerations.

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# La Creme De La Creme

## -Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

### P.A. with financial flair c £6,000 p.a.

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Duties will include co-ordinating the submission of weekly, monthly and quarterly accounts to the Financial Director and organising lunches, dinners and meetings. Additionally, you will be responsible for monitoring the cash position, keeping surplus funds and recalling cash when required.

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This is a real challenge for a  
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time, food, drink, salary  
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Windsor c. £5,000  
Skilled and numerate secre-  
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Lovely head office located  
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Oil Co. SW1 requires good  
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M.W. We need an enthusiastic  
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(SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE)

Our clients are an International Engineering Company. They wish to appoint a high grade Secretary/PA for a busy Chairman.

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Aldersgate Chambers,  
High Street,  
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work in a bank or building  
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shorthand-typist as well as  
administrative? If so, and  
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requiring maturity, initiative  
and ability to assist  
Director and top manager  
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We are a small organisation  
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we are looking for a further  
member of the team to help  
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bright and organised person  
with good secretarial skills.  
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Jennifer Macpherson on 081 737 7357.

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Deputy  
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Director's Deputy means  
a person who is  
able to take over  
the running of the  
company in the  
absence of the  
Managing Director.

Although you will need ex-  
cellent secretarial skills,  
this job is largely an  
administrative and organ-  
isational one. You'll work  
from very attractive offices  
off Sloane Square, with  
flexible working hours,  
and the opportunity  
of attending  
conferences and making  
decisions. Preferred age  
25-30.

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